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Issue no 264

Hunt is on for £8,000 phone trio following two raids

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

DETECTIVES are hunting three men after £8,000 worth of mobile phones were stolen from shops in the city.

The suspects are alleged to have taken 18 models of mobiles from two stores, during a crime spree on Tuesday, October 23, in the city centre and Wincheap.

Carphone Warehouse in Rose Lane was one of the shops targeted. The offenders stole a selection of mobile phones at around 6pm, just before the shop closed for the evening.

Forty minutes earlier, it is believed the same three men had gone into the Wincheap branch of Carphone Warehouse and

taken two BlackBerry devices.

All three are described as in their mid to late 20s and spoke with local accents.

Anyone with any information, or anyone who knows the identity of these men is urged to contact Kent Police on 101, quoting crime reference ZY/30063/12.

In a separate incident, police are also hunting a thief who stole a four-foot model boat owned by a family for 20 years. It was swiped from a shed in School Lane, Herne Bay, between 6.30pm on Saturday, October 20, and 8.45am on Sunday, October 21.

Anyone with information should contact PC Daniel Ashton on 101 quoting crime reference ZY/030002/12.



BLAZE: Make sure you take safety precautions before lighting your bonfire this weekend

SAFETY

BONFIRE SAFETY PLEA

FIRE crews are urging those organising bonfire parties over the next week to ensure no repeat of last year, which saw a string of incidents around the city.

Canterbury firefighters say incidents in Forrester Close, Spring Lane and St Peter's Place were all sparked by fires being left unattended or getting out of control.

This weekend is set to be one of the

busiest of the year for fire crews as the nation celebrates Bonfire Night, which falls on Monday, November 5.

Canterbury crew manager, Scott Pearce, said: "In the build up to bonfire night we will be out in the community passing on key safety messages to help ensure your firework evening goes off with a bang and doesn't end in disaster."

See www.kentnews.co.uk for events.

MAIL

MP Brazier puts pressure on Royal Mail chiefs over service

CANTERBURY MP Julian Brazier met with Royal Mail chiefs last week to discuss the future of Whitstable's town centre post office.

With a new sorting office due to open next year in Maidstone, it has meant the closure of some local branches – including the existing site in Whitstable.

Previously, Royal Mail assured customers that a plan would be put in

place to collect parcels from the local post office if postmen were unable to deliver them. But Mr Brazier's meeting followed the withdrawal of Royal Mail's guarantee.

The MP said the future of the Post Office is unclear, as its lease has expired and the landlord wants to redevelop the site.

He said: "Frankly, it is astonishing

that this communication breakdown between the Post Office and Royal Mail could have occurred.

"Royal Mail has proposed two main options for undeliverable parcels – delivery to a neighbour, or redelivery later. There is also the option of having your parcel delivered to another Post Office to pick up for £1.50. In other nearby areas where sorting offices have

closed recently, Royal Mail has assured me that over 90 per cent of participants were satisfied with the service they received using these options.

"The Post Office made it clear that they have no intention of abandoning central Whitstable and they will maintain an office, even if in temporary premises, until a new permanent facility is built."

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SHELLFISH

Oyster prices start to rise

WHITSTABLE'S famous oysters are being snapped up by the French after their harvest was hit by a virus – seeing prices of the shellfish rocket by around 30 per cent.

The main shortages are for rock oysters which are farmed extensively off Whitstable. For the full story, see inside.

AWARD

Marlowe team scoop top gong

THE marketing team at the Marlowe Theatre has scooped a top national prize at the Theatre Awards UK.

It received the 'achievement in marketing' gong for its efforts in promoting the theatre since it reopened. It was presented by the Theatrical Management Association.

INTERNET

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HALLOWEEN

Blood will fall from the skies as haunted night draws near

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TERRIFYING weather is predicted for this weekend with 'blood rain' falling from the skies in the run-up to Halloween.

But don't fear, this spooky weather is in fact a natural phenomenon caused by red dust whipped up by winds in the Sahara desert which then mixes with moisture in the clouds.

Coinciding with the run up to October 31, the freak weather could make this the spookiest Halloween yet.

According to Medway author Neil Arnold, who has written a series of books about ghostly goings on in Kent, there is a lot of paranormal activity in the area.

"Pluckley, near Ashford, is often considered Britain's most haunted village despite the fact a majority of the classic ghostly tales were made up around the 1940s," he said.

"Rochester is probably Kent's most haunted location. This former city has at least 40 ghosts in its High Street.

"Blue Bell Hill near Maidstone is possibly Kent's weirdest location. This old hill is known for its ghostly hitchhiker – a phantasmal woman in white who many believe is the victim of a car crash which took place in November, 1965, resulting in the deaths of three girls, one of whom was a bride-to-be."

"The story is mostly urban legend but there have been sightings on the hill of a ghost dating back to the early 1900s."

"There have been numerous murders and accidents on the hill. In 1934 a girl was picked up on the hill, but vanished when she reached Burham."

"In 1992 a Mr Sharp and a Mr Dawkins had two separate encounters at either end of the village with a girl who ran out in front of



their vehicle but upon inspection there was no sign of a body."

Mr Arnold said Dover Castle is reported to

WHERE TO SEE GHOSTS

- **Rochester** probably Kent's most haunted location
- **Blue Bell Hill near Maidstone** weirdest happenings
- **Dover Castle** numerous ghosts, mainly linked to the wars
- **Chatham Dockyard** harbours several spirits
- **Oxney Bottom near Deal** haunt of a ghostly old woman in grey
- **Tunbridge Wells** The Pantiles has several haunted buildings
- **Pluckley near Ashford** considered Britain's most haunted village

By spooks expert Neil Arnold

BONFIRE NIGHT

Who will be the stupid Guy?

AS Bonfire Night approaches, which high-profile figure is to be burnt at the stake in Edenbridge?

Paedophile Jimmy Savile, disgraced Chelsea defender John Terry, and 'plebgate' MP Andrew Mitchell are all in the running to go up in flames.

For years, the town has enjoyed the media spotlight on November 5 as it mocks the rich and famous by building a gigantic effigy in their likeness before setting it alight.

Among the previous victims are glamour model Katie Price, footballers Mario Balotelli and Wayne Rooney, and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Speculation is now rife over who will be this year's target, with Jimmy Savile and the Conservative MP at the centre of the 'pleb' row Andrew Mitchell both being suggested.

Even 2006's Guy, John McCririck has given his opinion, tweeting: "Andy Murray and if



GUY: Manchester City star Mario Balotelli was last year's victim

not him then his awful mother."

Jon Mitchell, committee member for the Edenbridge Bonfire Society, said a meeting was held this week to make the final decision.

The society will make the

IN THE RUNNING

Chancellor George Osborne
TV presenter Jimmy Savile
Cyclist Lance Armstrong
Footballer John Terry
MP Andrew Mitchell

official announcement on Wednesday.

Mr Mitchell said this year's decision was difficult and had to be put to a vote. He said: "I think we have all said nobody has done anything that stupid this year."

Work on the designs was done this week before the Guy is built this weekend in a "secret lair".

When pushed for more detail Mr Mitchell said: "The best hint I can give on the identity of the Guy is two arms, two legs and a head. That narrows it down quite a bit."

This year's bonfire takes place on November 3.

SPOOKY:
Rochester Castle, far left, is in one of the county's most ghostly towns, while St Nicholas Church, left, is in Kent's most haunted village, Pluckley

have numerous ghosts, including soldiers in World War Two uniforms.

"Chatham Dockyard is also an incredibly haunted location, said to harbour several spirits," he added.

"There are regular ghost tours of the Dockyard where there have been reports of ghostly marines marching through the grounds, a haunted clock tower and, according to some, a phantom drummer boy who has also been connected to Fort Amherst nearby."

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ Race attack on mother

A BLACK woman has been assaulted in Folkestone in what is believed to be a racist attack. The victim, in her 40s, was walking in Devon Road, between 8.30-9pm on Saturday, September 29, when she saw a group of around six white teenage girls. She was then punched in the head. A short while later she went to look for the offenders with her daughter and they were subjected to racist abuse by youths who were walking towards Shepway Close.

→ Enjoy the Wedding Show

THOUSANDS of happy couples are set to descend on Dover Cruise Terminal on Sunday, October 28, for the county's top one-stop shop for anyone planning to tie the knot. The Wedding Show, organised by Archant Weddings, gives couples the chance to meet with the industry's top suppliers and includes catwalk shows, live music, and even a first dance demonstration. Tickets are free. For more information go to www.theweddingshow.co.uk.

→ Rapist jailed for 10 years

A CHATHAM man has been sentenced to 10 years after being found guilty of rape. Adhanom Brehe, 34, of New Road, was also sentenced to seven years for attempted rape and two years for sexual assault, all to run concurrently. He was arrested after a 22-year-old woman was raped on January 2. Brehe threatened her with a large kitchen meat knife and demanded she remove her clothes, before raping her.

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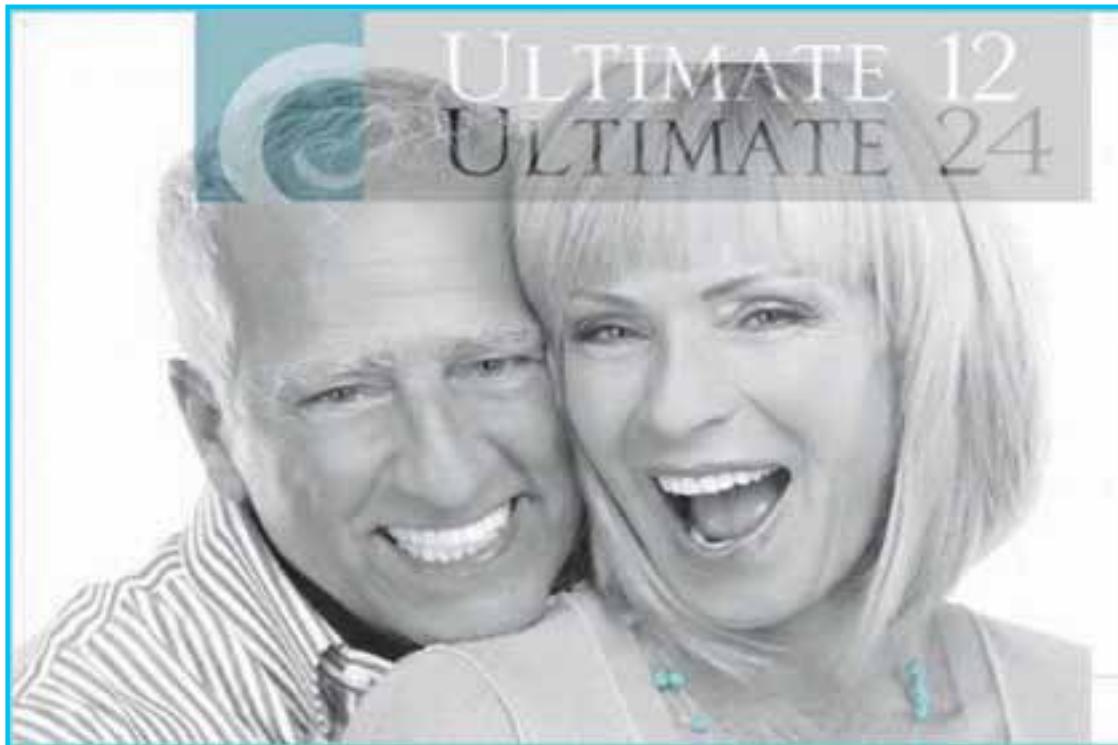
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News

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PCC ELECTION



Name: Ann Barnes
Party: Standing as an independent
Job: Former teacher
Lives: Lyminge, near Folkestone
Background: Former chair of Kent Police Authority; former independent deputy chair of the National Association of Police Authorities.
Pledges: Relentless focus on cutting crime

and catching criminals, free of party political interference. To fight any government cuts to Kent Police, and to give the electorate a bigger say in the way communities are policed with the introduction of local police boards and consultation before changes to are introduced.



Name: Dai Liyanage
Party: standing as an independent
Job: Police recruitment consultant
Lives: Gillingham
Background: Member of Kent Police Authority; former Mayor of Medway; served on Kent County Council, Medway Council, and Gillingham Borough Council.

Pledges: To catch more criminals by engaging with the community more effectively, better equipment for officers and redeploying resources. A safer and calmer community through liaison between schools, parents and police to deal with vandalism and more "bobbies on the beat".



Name: Craig Mackinlay
Party: Conservative
Job: Chartered accountant
Lives: Chatham
Background: Medway councillor; member of Kent Police Authority; magistrate.
Pledges: Zero tolerance to drugs and antisocial behaviour; strongest action and sanctions against

drug dealers, and support for drug users. He promises regular public meets attended by the PCC, senior police and criminal justice system chiefs, as well as cutting down on bureaucracy.

QUESTION: What is the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner?

ANSWER: It replaces the existing Kent Police Authority which currently sets the policing budget and holds Kent Police to account. The PCC will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the county's policing plan, set the Kent Police budget, engage

AFTER months of speculation, the list of candidates for next month's election to find the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent has been published. Meet the people fighting for your support when we all go to the polls on November 15. You can vote for your first and second choice candidates. **MARIJKE COX** reports



Name: Steve Uncles
Party: English Democrats
Job: Contract manager in the health sector
Lives: Dartford
Background: South East area chairman for English Democrats; Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.
Pledges: To introduce "benefit of the doubt" policing, giving

individuals defending property or family members the benefit of the doubt unless evidence their actions were excessive. Would declare the county a drug-free zone and remove all fixed police speed cameras.



Name: Piers Wauchope
Party: Ukip
Job: Criminal barrister
Lives: Tunbridge Wells
Background: Tunbridge Wells councillor; served for eight years as a Tory councillor in Camden.
Pledges: A clear commitment to prioritise drug-related

crimes and antisocial behaviour, with a clear plan on crime reduction and defence of frontline policing. Is determined "to restore real policing values" by re-establishing the police in the community and working to ensure there are more police on the beat.



Name: Harriet Yeo
Party: Labour
Job: Charity fundraising manager
Lives: Ashford
Background: Ashford councillor; president of Transport Salaried Staff Association; chair of Labour's National Executive Committee.
Pledges: No privatisation of Kent Police and ensuring

criminals are both punished and rehabilitated. She promises to visit every constituency twice a year to speak to a wide variety of groups and act as a facilitator between communities and the officers who serve them.

with the community, and commission services.

QUESTION: Who can vote and why should you bother?

ANSWER: Everyone who is eligible to vote can go to the polls. The elected person will be a powerful influence on how our police patrol our streets. They will set the priorities for Kent and make sure they are suitably funded.

INDEPENDENTS LEVEL ACCUSATIONS OF POLITICAL BIAS

NON-party political candidates who were hoping to stand in the election for the most influential policing position in Kent have branded the process "unfair".

They accused the Home Office of designing the election for political parties and said it had been unfairly weighted against independent hopefuls.

Of the six candidates standing in the poll, four are from political backgrounds and the two independents – Dai Liyanage and Ann Barnes – are high-profile individuals; the former being a previous Lib Dem mayor in Medway, and the latter the ex-chair of Kent Police Authority – the organisation being replaced by the PCC on November 22.

Graham Wanstall, from Dover, had been hoping to stand as an independent.

He explained: "The deposit to register as a candidate is £5,000 – it would be far more reasonable to be £500-1,000."

"If you don't have a party to help raise this money it puts you at a disadvantage."

"You need 100 signatures, too, from all over Kent. This is easier for someone in a political party as they have members all over."

"The PCC should have a free mind and not be controlled by a party."

Other casualties include Thanet councillor Ian Driver, Ken Little from Whitstable, and property tycoon Fergus Wilson.

Mr Little said there was an "entrenched bias" towards political parties, including the £5,000 deposit. Mr Wilson dropped out citing government cuts to policing.

The Home Office said: "PCC candidates could have experience in the private, voluntary or public sector. They don't have to be politicians to stand. They can be independent of political parties."

"This is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to stand and to make a difference."



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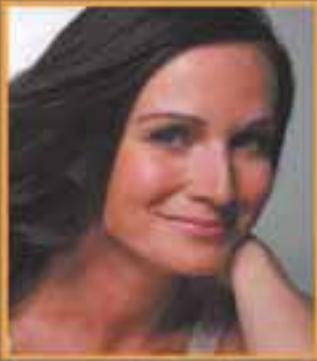
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FOOD

Oyster prices to rocket as French swoop after stocks killed by herpes

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMOROUS Frenchmen are snapping up Kent's oysters after their supplies were mysteriously killed off by herpes.

The increased demand could lead to price rises on the Kent coast of around 30 per cent.

The French love oysters, which are famed for their apparent aphrodisiac properties.

But a virus is laying waste to their own stocks, so they are turning to Whitstable and other Kent areas, known around the world for producing the best quality oysters.

French suppliers are buying up as many oysters as they can to replace their own dwindling numbers, caused by a new micro-variant of oyster herpesvirus. The disease is always present, but has become lethal and is now widespread in

France, wiping out a large proportion of oysters before they breed the next generation. It's thought not to affect humans, but can easily wipe out whole colonies of the shellfish.

As chefs wonder if they can continue including oysters on their menus to keep romantics in the mood, suppliers in Kent are seeing an upturn in demand from across the Channel.

Casanova's conquest of some 122 women has in part been put down to the 50 oysters he scoffed for breakfast. And it's not just a myth – scientists believe the high levels of zinc and amino acids help boost the libido in both sexes.

Britain annually produces 1,100 tonnes of oysters but it seems around 15 per cent is immediately going abroad. And it's no wonder – the French used to produce an incredible 130,000 tonnes.

John Bayes has run Seasalter Shellfish for more than 50 years, and has an oyster bed off Reculver. He said: "Yes, the French are coming over and buying in large numbers."

"Prices have been stagnant for 30 years, but over the past year, they have risen to a half decent level. It's not as good as it used to be, but it's getting better and we are just about matching inflation rises now."

"I have worked hard setting up links with French companies and that is going well. We are also setting up a new building to sell market oysters, which is an exciting project."

David Jarrad, director of the Shellfish Association, said: "The French have been to the UK and are buying as much as they can, both in market size oysters but also in half-grown stocks and in seed stocks."

He warned of a shortage over

**THE ORCHID**

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THE latest issue of The Orchid newspaper, celebrating the Kent Downs, is now available, and with it comes the chance to win half a case of Kent Downs wine or an iPod shuffle.

From ancient woodland to the farmed landscape, we're surrounded by breathtaking countryside that's crying out to be explored, and this issue of The Orchid – packed with information about the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – is now available.

As well as an interesting mix of articles ranging from the modern landscape to heritage, biodiversity to access and involvement, it also introduces the Management Plan Review, which needs your help.

To ensure our beautiful Downs are managed in the best possible way, this paper includes a short questionnaire to find out what you think is the most important aspect of the Kent Downs AONB and which areas need to be prioritised.

And if you choose to give your name and address when submitting the questionnaire you'll also be in with the chance of winning a half case of Kent Downs wine or an iPod shuffle as a token of appreciation for your efforts.

So make sure you pick up your copy today. The newspaper is available throughout the Kent Downs area in visitor information centres, libraries, cafes, pubs, farm shops, petrol stations, local shops, at www.kentdowns.org.uk, or call Kent Downs AONB Unit on 01303 815170.



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CRIME

MasterChef star Wallace caught speeding in Jaguar sports car

By Chrissie Daniels

chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

MASTERCHEF star Gregg Wallace found himself in hot water after he was clocked driving at 82mph in his swanky sports car.

More used to being in front of the TV cameras, the presenter found himself on the wrong end of a speed camera as he was clocked breaking the 50mph limit in his £70,000 Jaguar XK on the A249 between Maidstone and Sittingbourne.

And it cost him a £1,330 fine, with six penalty points added to his driving licence. In addition, the punishment was spiced up with £85 in court costs.

He was snapped on April 22 on Detling Hill.

The TV personality, 47, who lives in Seasalter, near Whitstable, pleaded guilty to the offence after being caught by the mobile speed camera unit, but did not appear in court in Maidstone.

Katherine Barrett, communications officer for the Kent and Med-



CAUGHT ON CAMERA: TV star Gregg Wallace was snapped in his Jaguar driving at 82mph in a 50mph zone

way Safety Camera Partnership, said: "Safety cameras operate at sites where people have been killed or seriously injured."

"On this stretch of road from Maidstone towards the county showground there were eight peo-

ple killed or seriously injured within the signed camera area before the site was installed, and two people in the last three years."

"We do not want to catch people speeding, we would like them to drive within the speed limits to as to

reduce the number of crashes and casualties."

"We offer speed awareness courses to drivers who are within a certain threshold, however excessive speed cases such as this are referred to court."

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SEX SCANDAL

Senior management at BBC must 'fall on their swords' over Savile scandal, says MP

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

VETERAN Tory MP Sir Roger Gale has warned that senior bosses at the BBC may have to "fall on their swords" over the Jimmy Savile scandal.

It followed a veiled threat in a letter from BBC Trust chairman Lord Patten to culture secretary Maria Miller suggesting the Government should not question the corporation's editorial independence.

North Thanet Tory MP Sir Roger criticised Lord Patten and said there needed to be a "clear-out" at senior level.

"It is as if your favourite aunt has been revealed to be on the game," he said.

"If Lord Patten is not able to grasp that then I fear that not only the director-general, but also the chairman of the BBC Trust are going to have to fall on their swords.

"If the true independence of the BBC, which is vital as our public service broadcaster, is to be maintained and if public trust is to be restored then what is needed is a clear-out of senior man-

agement and a change in the culture of self-righteousness and the injection of a little humility."

Sir Roger worked at the BBC as a director and producer during the height of Savile's fame. He said he had not witnessed the abuse himself, but "could not believe" senior staff did not know what was going on.

"George Entwistle, as the current director-general, has been hung out to dry while having very little responsibility for these matters and the Newsnight editor, Peter Rippon, would appear to be the fall guy for years



of BBC self-preservation," he said.

This week, members of the culture, media and sport select committee grilled Mr Entwistle over the Savile affair and the decision to shelve the Newsnight programme last December.

The BBC later admitted the programme makers were aware of allegations Savile had abused teenagers on the corporation's premises. But despite this, at Christmas – two months after Savile died and weeks after the exposé was cancelled – tributes about the late DJ were broadcast on the BBC.

Folkestone and Hythe Tory MP Damian Collins quizzed Mr Entwistle as a member of the select committee.

He questioned whether the director-general – who is also editor-in-chief – should have been routinely told about serious criminal investigations being looked at by BBC reporters.

"I understand Mr Entwistle cannot see everything the BBC broadcasts. But if the Savile allegations did not qualify for his attention, what would?" he said.



WRONGDOING: Conservative MPs Sir Roger Gale (bottom left) and Damian Collins (bottom right) have both attacked the BBC over its handling of the mounting allegations of sexual abuse by disc jockey Jimmy Savile (above)

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TRIBUTE

Oldest Battle of Britain pilot dies, but poetry keeps his memory alive

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE oldest surviving Spitfire pilot to have fought the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in the skies over Kent, has died aged 99.

As well as his dogged determination to save the nation from Hitler's invaders, Flight Lieutenant William Walker also left a major legacy to the county.

The keen poet donated copyright on some of his work to raise money for the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne which is fundraising to pay for a new education centre called The Wing.

Memorial supporter and spokesman Malcolm Triggs said: "I used to edit some of his poetry. It is an amazing legacy and we can't thank him enough for what he did for his country and of course the memorial."

They are still trying to raise £2 million for the education centre and are calling on the public for support.

Incredibly, Flt Lt Walker survived being shot down over the Channel in August, 1940, after being sent to see off German bombers approaching Dover. He was even shot in the ankle.

Bailing out, he plunged into the icy waters

and clung to a shipwreck on Goodwin Sands, until eventually being rescued by a passing fishing boat.

Flt Lt Walker enjoyed recounting the story of the surgeon prising the armour-piercing bullet from his ankle during his stay at the RAF Hospital, in Halton, Buckinghamshire.

It shot out and hit the ceiling. He kept the bullet as a souvenir.

When the war ended, he eventually became chairman of brewery Ind Coope.

He had been planning to attend the trust's End of the Battle Gala Dinner where guests included the patron, Prince Michael of Kent, last Thursday but suffered a stroke and was taken to hospital.

Mr Triggs said: "His absence saddened the gathering at the dinner and was made even more poignant by the fact that in recent years it had become traditional for William to raise a toast to his fellow Battle of Britain pilots after reading his poem Absent Friends."

His life was always the RAF and he was among those who attended the annual memorial flypast at Capel-le-Ferne, last year.

At the time, the daring pilot told this newspaper: "I write poems for pleasure and as a mental

stimulant and had never envisaged that a day might come when they might be used to help a cause so close to my heart.

"When the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust decided to print a book of my verses, I immediately realised it was an opportunity to repay, in some measure, a great debt of gratitude for many wonderful years of kindness and help.

"By donating the copyright of all my verses to the trust I hope it will prove to be helpful in raising revenue towards the important learning centre project, and for maintaining our memorial site."

He added: "My annual pilgrimage to Capel-le-Ferne to attend our memorial service and see our memorial wall gives me the opportunity to see again the names of so many friends who are constantly in my thoughts, and it is comforting to know they will always be remembered and thought of by those who visit the site."

To donate to The Wing send cheques payable to the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust to The Secretary, Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, PO Box 337, West Malling, ME6 9AA.

Visit www.battleofbritainmemorial.org for more information.



HERO: Flight Lieutenant William Walker was shot down over the Channel, a book of his poetry raises funds for the Battle of Britain memorial

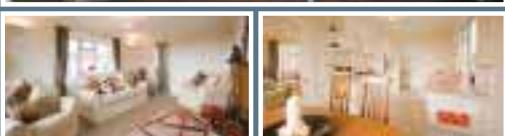
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Newsfor more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk**SPORT**

Foul language gets the red card in bid to get families onto terraces

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE attention has been focused on the bad language on the pitch of players like John Terry, one club is trying to cut out swearing by fans in the stands.

Margate FC play in the Ryman Premier, and have their eye on a promotion push. Club officials are keen to improve crowds and match-day income by bringing more families through the turnstiles.

But mums and dads are less likely to bring their children along if there are obscene chants on the terraces.

So now club officials have called on the club's loyal supporters to drop the swearing, and signs have gone up at the Hartsdown Park stadium reading: "Please respect the well being of our children! No foul language."

Club spokesman Steve Wells said: "It all started last year when there was a particular incident around language and behaviour of some of our supporters.

"The directors are acutely aware of the need to continue to develop the club's good community credentials.

"We are keen to attract families and we don't want excessive bad language to put people off coming along to see the matches.

"Following this incident in



FRIENDLY: The club want to encourage more families to watch

the away game, the directors received some complaints, not only from parents, but also some of the older supporters.

"Our CEO Cliff Egan did go and speak with some of the supporters, who add to our atmosphere, and ask them to change some of the chants to make them cleaner, and to be fair they have responded well, and now include the word 'shark' for another word."

"The fans have really taken this on, and we are even seeing some inflatable sharks being waved around. Some of the fans who use the language are also those that create some of the atmosphere as well."

Like many clubs, Margate FC has seen a slow decline in supporter numbers – dropping to

around 400 from 1,400 a decade ago.

Mr Wells said the club were making efforts to attract more fans, with offers like free child tickets if they are with a paying adult, and partnerships with local organisations and colleges.

He said: "The signs we have put up basically say we want a more family friendly atmosphere and to keep the language down and they are having a positive effect."

And the Northern League, the world's oldest, is reported to be introducing 'swear police' to monitor language on the pitch.

■ See the sports section for an interview with Margate winger Alex Rhodes about racism in football.

LANDMARKS

Cliffs are top-10 icon

THE White Cliffs of Dover have been named in the top 10 of iconic British landmarks in a poll of thousands of children. The vote by 2,500 youngsters across the UK, conducted by hotel chain Travelodge, saw them pick historic sites over modern landmarks in a list published this week. The famous cliffs at Dover came 10th on the list, which was topped by Big Ben in London.

DEATH

Ex-council leader dies

TRIBUTES have been pouring in to former Gravesham council leader Mike Snelling who died last Friday, aged 66, following a brief illness. Cllr Snelling was a Tory borough councillor and a county councillor, representing Gravesham Rural. Cllr Snelling was leader of Gravesham council from 2007-11. He leaves his wife Heather, two daughters, and four grandsons.

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BATTLEGROUND: Fay Ripley (right) has joined Save Whitstable's Shops campaign against rent rises

BUSINESS

Actress backs traders' fight over huge hike in shop rents

By Dean Kilpatrick

dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A TELEVISION actress with a home in Whitstable has added her voice to a campaign looking to save the seaside town's high street.

Fay Ripley, famous for playing Jenny Gifford in ITV's comedy drama *Cold Feet*, has backed a protest group fighting an increase in shop rents.

Twenty shops are to be hit by the rise in rent costs which will see some shopkeepers paying 100 per cent more for properties owned by Whitstable Non-Ecclesiastical Charities.

There are fears the price hike will see a number of chain shops come into the town, "killing" its wide range of independent stores – which won it the title the best town in the UK in 2010.

And the 46-year-old actress – who has starred in a string of Tesco adverts – told KoS the reputation of the town could be put at risk if well-loved independent traders went out of business.

She said: "When you hike up rents, landlords and councils have to take responsibility for the long-term effect of that because building character doesn't happen overnight."

"Coastal towns are in a recession and there are plenty of beaches around. But why do people have their home there and why do people have their holidays there? Because Whitstable is fabulous."

The actress and food writer said she had grown to love Whitstable after hearing about it "on the grapevine" in London.

She said: "I am such a fan of Whitstable and everything it has to offer. I really admire it as a town and that is why I am supporting the campaign.

"In this current economic time, they have managed to keep their head above the water when a lot of other businesses are struggling.

"It has a very individual and quirky character and I think to lose that would be a terrible shame."

The actress also spoke of her love of Kent's produce, and said her favourite time of year in the seaside town was the autumn months.

Save Whitstable's Shops has welcomed Ripley's backing.

Spokesman Brian Hitcham said: "It's really nice to have someone such as Fay on board because it grabs people's attention.

"We talk to people who come in our shops and when we tell them of the rent increases, they see it as something that will kill the town."

Save Whitstable's Shops has commissioned an independent report on rents from former estate agent Kim Foster.

Estate agents Caxtons, who are dealing with the price hikes, said the increases were being applied to reflect the current nature of the open market and was a symbol of Whitstable's success.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Animals saved from fire

MORE than 30 firefighters tackled a fire at farm buildings last Sunday morning – and battled to also protect livestock. The drama unfolded in Spode Lane, Cowden, as firefighters brought the fire, in a range of farm buildings used as stables and a tack room, under control. All animals were removed to safety and ventilation fans were used to push smoke away from livestock.

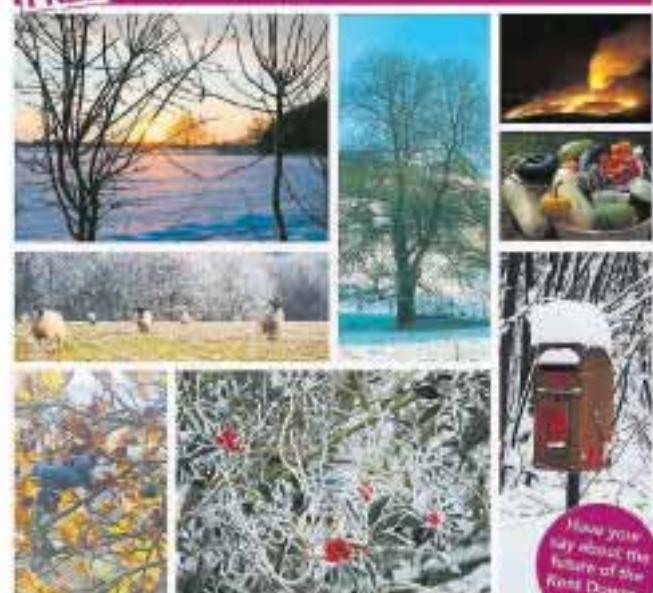
CRIME

Teen 'held up with gun'

A TEENAGE boy was attacked and his iPod and mobile phone stolen following a robbery in Broadstairs' Pierremont Park last Saturday night – with police fearing one of the gang may have had a gun. The 15-year-old boy was in the park with his friends when a group of around four to five males approached him. It is said that one of the group appeared to have a gun.

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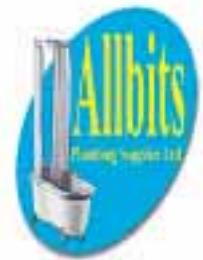
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News

CUISINE

Fleming's local hides secret past Bond would be proud of

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AS IF timed to coincide with the release of the latest James Bond film Skyfall, Kent's culinary past has served up a secret story of its own, even entwining the great spy himself.

Well known for being home to Bond author Ian Fleming, Kent has a rich history associated with the famous secret agent, and in particular the pub where Fleming used write – The Duck Inn at Pett Bottom, near Canterbury.

Now run by chef patron Jonathan Prynne, the pub, built in 1623, has a far richer history than just being a Bond fan tourist attraction.

It's no revelation the village was the fictional home to a young Bond where he lived with his aunt as a child. It has also documented in Fleming's 1964 novel You Only Live Twice, where Bond's obituary mentions the "lovely village pub, The Duck Inn".

However, what isn't widely known is that from 1974-81 the pub was awarded a coveted Michelin star for its fine food and excellent service.

But here is where the story becomes a little murky. In 2001, restaurant experts at Michelin heralded The Stagg Inn at Titley, Herefordshire, as the first-ever pub to gain a star, thereby

launching the modern 'gastro-pub' trend. But since The Duck Inn had held one more than 25 years previously, surely the history books should be re-written proclaiming the Pett Bottom local as the original gastro-pub?

Michelin Guide's UK editor Rebecca Burr said: "The Duck Inn was obviously well ahead of its time. Pub food in the 70s was often not very good. So you can definitely say this star would have put Pett Bottom and Canterbury on the map."

"But the pub symbol [for serving good food] was not introduced to the Michelin Guide until 1998."

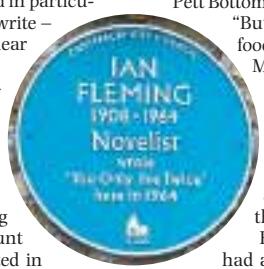
Therefore, The Duck Inn was not described as a pub in the 1974 guide.

Mr Prynne was surprised to learn his establishment had held an award, but had an inkling of the eatery's successful past. He said: "I didn't know the place

had a star, but I knew they had high quality food here at one point, because people have always commented 'back in 75 we used to come here every weekend'."

The 29-year-old has been in charge of The Duck Inn for almost five years is keen on regaining the pub's reputation for good food.

He said: "It's nice to know this piece of history now, and if we were one of the first pubs to have a Michelin star then that's something we must aim to get it back again one day."



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WILDLIFE

Gorilla family getting set for the long trip 'home' to Africa from Port Lympne

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FAMILY of gorillas will soon be leaving Kent and heading to the lowlands of Africa.

The man behind the project wants it to spark a global debate on the role of the world's zoos in conservation.

Eleven western lowland gorillas are moving from Port Lympne Wild Animal Park – and it's the first time an entire captive family group will be rehomed on the continent.

It is the work of the Aspinall Foundation, which aims to maintain threatened populations in their natural habitat.

The family will be moved early next year, along with six Javan gibbons, eight Javan langurs, and two bull elephants. Three black rhinos have already been released this year and are all doing well in the wild in Tanzania.

Damian Aspinall helps run the foundation set up by his father John, and since 1996 has successfully taken dozens of creatures back to Africa.

He said: "The Aspinall Foundation's Back To The Wild initiative is unique and comprises of easily the most ambitious and wide-ranging reintroductions of endangered species into the wild ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

"Equally important, it marks the Foundation's absolute commitment to intensify the global debate around the role of wildlife parks and zoos.

"We passionately believe that the days are long gone when it could be seen as justifiable to keep animals in captivity simply for the purposes of

Picture: DAVE ROLFE



HEAD OF THE FAMILY: Djala was rescued from poachers

display or education. True conservation must be fundamental to the existence of any collection of captive animals in the 21st century.

"We believe this has to involve the protection, where necessary, of endangered species coupled with successful and sustainable breeding programmes – always with the ultimate aim wherever possible of returning animals to the wild.

"This can be the only possible justification in the 21st century for the existence of collections of animals in captivity."

The latest group of animals going to the area in Congo and Gabon involves 200kg Djala and his five 'wives' and five cubs, aged between eight months and six years. The youngsters have never known a home outside Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks.

The 30-year-old male had originally been saved from poachers before arriving at Port Lympne in the 1990s.

AIR TRAVEL

Dutch dinner sparks flights speculation

THE airline considering launching flights from Manston Airport to Amsterdam will be hosting a dinner in Kent next month, fuelling speculation that a decision on the issue could be imminent.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, which is merged with Air France, revealed last month it was in talks with Manston owner Infratil about daily passenger flights to Schiphol in Amsterdam.

From there, passengers could travel to destinations including America and Asia. This means east Kent could be the gateway to the rest of the world and residents would no longer have to travel to London to fly internationally.

A timescale for the final decision on the move has not yet been announced, but KoS can reveal

a dinner is to be hosted by KLM and Air France. The buffet dinner will take place at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on November 13.

A KLM spokeswoman was keeping tight-lipped about the event and said a decision on the Manston flights has not yet been made.

She said: "The purpose of the event is that KLM will make an announcement."

But when pushed, she was unable to confirm whether this was related to Manston.

As part of the decision-making process, KLM conducted a survey to get an idea of demand.

There was a huge response, with 9,066 people filling out the online form, and 96 per cent saying they would rather fly from Thanet.

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CRIME

Victim support groups set to benefit by £50m as justice minister hits offenders in the pocket

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

VICTIMS of crime are to benefit from an additional £50 million of help and assistance – taken straight from the pockets of criminals.

Minister for Victims Helen Grant has overseen a massive overhaul of the way services for victims and witnesses of crime are funded, and the 'victim surcharge' paid by offenders will be increased and extended.

Currently offenders only contribute around a sixth of the funding that supports victims' services, with taxpayers providing the rest.

Extending the surcharge is the next step in a drive to see offenders provide up to £50m more each year for victims' services. This is on top of the £66m central government already provides.

The money raised will go to support local organisations that have a proven track record in supporting victims.

Among those that could benefit are children's groups, and charities supporting victims of rape, domestic violence, hate crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour and other violent crimes including murder and manslaughter.

Ms Grant, who is also MP for Maidstone and The Weald, said: "Only £1 in every six the Government spends supporting victims of crime comes from offenders. Hard-working and innocent taxpayers pay for the rest. This balance is wrong and is something I am determined to change."

"Criminals create victims; as well as being punished for their crimes, they should help to repair the damage they have done."

Previously the surcharge stood at just £15 on top of any fine – with criminals receiving prison sentences escaping any financial penalty.

But under rules introduced this month, those convicted and forced to pay a financial penalty will have to pay an additional 10 per cent of any fine, with a maximum of £120 and a minimum of £20. A conditional discharge has a £15 surcharge and a community sentence £60. Custodial sentences add a charge of £80, £100 or £120.

The charges will not apply for Fixed Penalty Notices, including those issued for motoring offences.

Ms Grant said: "For the first time, more offenders will literally be made to pay for their crimes. And the more serious the sentence, the more they will be forced to pay. Criminals need to step up and recognise the impact their crime have on others."

The announcement comes after it was revealed that, in the last year, around £800,000 has been taken from prisoners' wages and given to the charity Victim Support.

Winston's Wish, a national charity providing emotional and practical support to some of the 24,000 children who are bereaved of a parent each year and those coping with the death of a sibling, is one group which receives Victims Surcharge support.

It helps people like the family of 19-year-old Mark, who was murdered in an



GETTING TOUGH:
Justice minister
Helen Grant

PUNCHES LASTED HOURS

THE help offered by organisations that support victims can be crucial in enabling people to recover from a traumatic event.

Sue (not her real name) now works with an organisation which may benefit from the new funding and was driven to help others after enduring harrowing emotional, mental, physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her ex-husband, which drove her to nearly commit suicide.

After three attempts to escape and 10 years of mental and physical torment, she managed to free herself from a living nightmare.

"I was a naive 20-year-old; I'd just had one other relationship and he groomed me. He was romantic and powerful at the same time in my eyes, but it was just one-and-a-half months after we met that the first incident took place.

"He got angry about something and slapped me. I was in shock, but very quickly he persuaded me he didn't mean to do it by apologising."

Marriage meant cutting family ties, and Sue was pregnant in the first six months.

"We were at a party and he accused me of flirting with someone. Back at home we were in bed when the questions started again. They were followed by slaps and punches which lasted three or four hours. Then came a violent rape.

"It was never just one slap. I even used to clock-watch knowing how long he would keep beating me.

"I know now he had a second relationship – a mistress and four children he fathered with her while he was married to me. Another child came later."

With her two children Sue finally fled the marital home, and women's refuges and family members helped her before she filed for divorce.

When her son reached 20 he wanted to find his father, and they discovered on the internet he'd died in a road accident.

"A day or so later I just collapsed. I'd spent 12 years looking over my shoulder, dreading being found by him, but now he was dead and I was so grateful he was because finally I could stop being scared."

"When a woman has been through this sort of abuse, there is only so much help that can be given – she will always be haunted. But there is practical and therapeutic help which can make a big difference."

unprovoked attack in 2009.

After attending a residential group for families bereaved by murder, Mark's mother said: "From all the negatives in our lives, this is a positive. It was so good to know that professionals were keeping me safe; helping me to express myself."



SUPPORT: Victims' groups to receive more cash

REMEMBRANCE

Star Pixie launches 2012 Poppy Appeal

BROMLEY pop princess Pixie Lott performed at a concert this week to launch the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

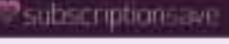
The 21-year-old, from Bickley, is the face of Poppy Appeal 2012 alongside singer and TV personality Alesha Dixon.

Pixie marked the start of the appeal at a free event in Trafalgar Square in London on Wednesday.

The concert also starred The Military Wives Choir and James Fox, star of West End musical Let It Be, who sang the Poppy Appeal 2012 single Landlocked.

The fundraising drive aims to raise £42 million to help pay for care and support for service personnel and military families.

Poppies will go on sale from Saturday until Remembrance Sunday on November 11, when the traditional two-minute silence will be held across Kent.

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News

WILDLIFE

Protecting bloodsuckers so they live to bite another day

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JUST seeing a leech gives many people the creeps – but one man spends his working life making sure the bloodsuckers are kept safe and sound.



SAVIOUR: Brian Banks at work

them safely out of the way of a new water main being built across the Marsh.

He said: "You just splash the water and the commotion attracts the leeches if they are hungry, you then net them."

"The medicinal leech can be found in just a few places in the UK, and Romney Marsh has one of the largest populations. Because they have important medicinal uses we have to make sure we protect the remaining colonies."

None of those he handles are used in medicine, as leech farms meet the doctors' needs, but Mr Banks ensures the few remaining in the wild are preserved.

He said: "This is about main-

taining breeding populations and protecting them."

"There are not many places where you can find them and it looks like Romney Marsh, for reasons we don't really understand, has the strongest population in Britain.

"They have a commercial value being used in hospitals and places like that for conditions that involve bleeding, and their enzymes prevent blood clotting. That makes them of interest to people researching heart disease and strokes."

"I am determined to avoid commercial exploitation. They are wild populations and my interest is to protect them."

Voles will also be moved away from the pipeline's path.

Affinity Water's pipelines manager Steve McIntegart said: "We have learnt a great deal about the way to handle construction. We have been working on the Marsh for years on different sites so were not starting from scratch."

The company is spending £6m to replace an older pipeline at high risk of bursts.

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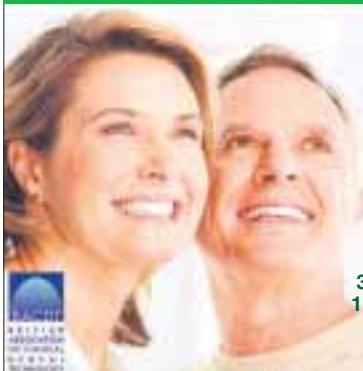
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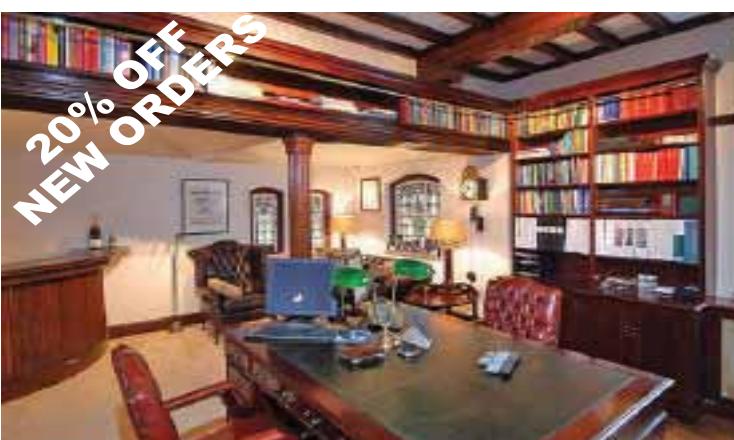


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News

EMERGENCY SERVICE

24-hour service planned for 'quiet' Kent Air Ambulance

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Air Ambulance could be flying around the clock within two years – but officials promise they will keep noise to a minimum.

The service, which is funded entirely by contributions from the public, has already merged with Surrey and Sussex, but current rules dictate it can only fly during daylight hours.

Now the next step could be to have the aircraft available over the skies of Kent day and night.

Chief executive of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance, Adrian Bell, said they operate two aircraft with two medical teams. One of these is based at Marden in Kent, the other at Dunsfold in Surrey, soon to be shifted to Redhill.

Mr Bell said the transfer is "part of exciting new plans to make its life-saving service available 24 hours a day".

He added: "Until recently, Civil Aviation Authority regulations allowed delivery of the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service only by daylight, but recent changes now allow this by night as well."

"The charity initially plans to operate one helicopter and one medical team by night, but will look to expand the service if the need arises."



FLYER: Charity will need £6m

The Marden aircraft will continue to operate from the charity's headquarters where it is hoped to develop a night service during the next 24 months.

Mr Bell said: "The charity presently treats almost 1,000 of the most severely ill and injured patients per year, wherever they need us."

"This change in regulations will allow us to treat up to 400 more patients per year."

An analysis of 999 data was carried out to achieve the best possible coverage, and it was concluded the Redhill Aerodrome move was logical as it allowed the use of one aircraft to reach any part of Kent, Surrey and Sussex in under 20 minutes without needing to refuel.

Any expansion of the service will be assessed at a later date.

The introduction of night flights will increase the charity's annual costs by about £1 million to £6m, so it is calling on the public for more support of the life-saving service.

In other parts of the country where night flying has started, some residents have complained of extra noise, but the Kent service said it plans to keep it to a minimum.

Mr Bell said: "There will be no low flying and we have the quietest helicopters available."

■ For more information or to make a donation, visit www.kssairambulance.org.

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News

BUSINESS

Independent businesses rewarded for going it alone

THE first annual Kent Independent Trader Awards has showcased the rising talent among the county's business owners.

The event was held at Bar 10, in the Royal Star Arcade, Maidstone, and organiser Hilary Steel, from Kent Ideas Ltd, said: "With more than 50 business represented and nearly 100 guests it goes to prove that the independents in this country have a voice."

The KIT Awards recognised businesses in 11 categories including Start-Up Business of the Year, and Independent Retailer of the Year.

The winners were chosen by an independent panel of judges comprising of Russell Burton, Principe Chambers; Lee Bennett, MDP; and Sharon Wilding of The Purple Edge.

The judges also chose the KIT Entrepreneur of the Year from the 11 winners. This was awarded to Julie Anderson from RAP Office Contractors.

Kent Independent Traders promotes the benefits of supporting local businesses, many of which form an integral part of local communities while also offering business owners the chance to grow through training and development.

The support network comprises of experienced business owners throughout the county and in-



TALENT POOL: KIT Awards were major success includes business information days and workshops for start-up businesses.

Organisers said it was with the support of companies such as Archant KOS Media, which backed the awards, that these initiatives can be driven forward.

The winners were: Tradesperson of the Year – Autospray Solutions, mobile car repair; Innovation – Racing Party Bus; Service Award – Angel Training; Retail Award – Country Brides, Faversham; Restaurant – Deasons, Canterbury; Bar – The Foundry Brew Pub, Canterbury; Start-Up Business – Maidstone Virtual Assistant; Home-Based Business – Simply No Gluten; Creative Business – WOW Magazine; Health and Beauty – Insightful Minds; Entrepreneur of the Year – Julie Anderson, RAP Contractors.

Full details of all winners, runners up and finalists can be found on www.kentindependent-traders.co.uk/awards.

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KENT REMEMBERED



IMMORTALISED: Canterbury Cathedral's memorial to Archbishop Thomas Becket, murdered in 1170

Holy relics that could make the crippled walk

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE strange stories of the Christian relics which were such a strong feature of life in the Middle Ages is the subject of a new book.

Holy Bones, Holy Dust: How Relics Shaped the History of Medieval Europe by Charles Freeman, recalls how artifacts with connections to saints – or even Christ himself – were everywhere.

Whether bones, hair, blood, teeth, milk, pieces of the True Cross or Crown of Thorns, they were thought to bring the believer close to a saint who might ask God for help on their behalf.

And foremost among the shrines was that of Thomas Becket, which bought world renown to Canterbury Cathedral.

The murder of the archbishop on December 29, 1170, is part of the mythology of both Kent and the Christian church.

His tomb no longer stands, but memorials and stained glass windows to the saint are an important facet of the imposing home of the worldwide Anglican church.

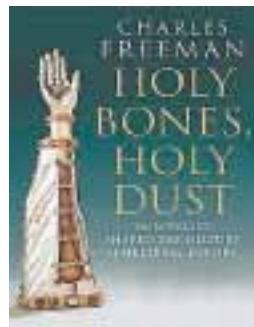
Four knights from the court of King Henry II killed the cleric in the cathedral, the first downward sword stroke glanced off his skull and cut through to the shoulder bone, two more cuts to the head followed and as Becket fell, the top of his head was sliced off.

The murder followed a series of disagreements between the churchman and King Henry, formerly a good friend.

The knights most likely acted on their own accord, but the monarch was vilified and undertook penance.

And in the aftermath of the killing it was quickly put forward that Becket was a martyr to his faith – even though history points to disagreements on both sides.

A witness called Benedict of Peterborough said the ransacking of Becket's palace – which took place after his death – was an imitation of the di-



viding up of Christ's clothes after the crucifixion.

And another important factor was his appearance. Freeman quotes Benedict on Becket's likeness in death "while blood in the likeness of a crown, perhaps in a sign of sanctity lay around his head, his face nevertheless seemed entirely freed from blood, except for a thin line which descended from the right temple to the left cheek, crossing his nose".

The body was buried without any washing or embalming, and its own blood acted as 'perfume' with no spices added.

Then miracles were reported. First a shirt dipped in blood was said to have cured a paralysed woman and "the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, the crippled walk, the fevered are relieved, the possessed are freed from the devil" according to a chronicler named John of Salisbury.

The prior then sent a petition to the Pope for canonisation so "Thomas, of holy memory, once Archbishop of Canterbury, who accepting the supreme penalty in defence of the Church's liberties, attained the crown of martyrdom".

Pilgrims flocked to Canterbury, bringing money and other wealth to its inhabitants – as Chaucer once described.

The story has a bizarre end. When Henry VIII fell out with the Church of Rome he set about destroying shrines associated with the Catholic faith.

The King portrayed Becket as a rebel against the crown and he was 'tried' at his tomb – by being ordered to perform a miracle in 30 days.

When nothing happened, in September, 1538, his ornate tomb was broken up and his bones scattered.

But saints' relics continued to be prized well into recent times – and when Pope John Paul II died samples of blood were displayed in a church in his home city of Krakow, Poland.

■ **Holy Bones, Holy Dust** is published by Yale University Press.

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OPINION

Hazard signs for young drivers

Motoring lawyer **David Barton** is keen to educate young drivers on how the law will affect them once they have gained their licence...

KENT'S young drivers are dangerously ill-informed when it comes to how the law affects them.

It seems that every other week there are sad new statistics about the number of young drivers who have car accidents – and suffer life-changing consequences or worse still, lose their lives – just months after passing their driving tests.

Inexperienced new drivers are more likely to have an accident in the first two years after ditching their L-plates than at any other time.

Between 2006-08 alone, more than 500 young people died or were seriously injured on Kent roads.

As a motoring lawyer with 30 years' experience of representing Kent motorists, I have first-hand knowledge of the risks of driving dangerously.

Time and again, I've met people who have made bad choices behind the wheel –

ranging from a simple speeding ticket to being involved in a serious accident involving other drivers.

It saddens me some of those have been new drivers with only a few months' driving experience and no real knowledge about how the law affects them once they pass their test.

I am also a parent of three young drivers and know how worrying it is when a new driver tears up the L-plates and drives solo for the first time.

So when the Association for British Insurers (ABI) recently called for an overhaul in how young people learn to drive, I took notice. It's an issue I feel passionately about.

The ABI recommended that learners spend a minimum of one year with L-plates before they can take a test. And that when they do, there should be restrictions on night-time driving and how many young passengers they can carry, and a

reduced drink-driving limit.

Spending longer learning to drive would give young people more time to realise the responsibilities they have when they get in a car – and increase their awareness of the countless hazards that have to be negotiated on our roads.

Through my work as a lawyer, I know that many young people are out there on the roads with little knowledge about the law, or believing incorrect information passed on from their friends.

There are some alarming myths that need to be busted.

Few young drivers realise you can lose your licence on just six points in the first two years after passing your test (compared to 12 points for everyone else).

Some think you can drink two pints of lager and still legally drive. And that if you eat a big meal it'll actually lower your alcohol levels if you have

a breath test. Then there's drug-driving and using a mobile phone behind the wheel, both trends growing at an alarming rate.

Many young drivers don't realise the onus is on them to understand the law – ignorance is no excuse.

That's why I'm touring Kent schools to talk to sixth formers who are learning to drive. It's part of a campaign called Lose Your L-Plates, Not Your Licence.

I'm hoping it will encourage them to drive more responsibly when they're given the freedom of being a qualified driver.

I'm asking teachers or schools who'd like me to give a talk to their students to get in touch via my website www.motorists-lawyer-kent.co.uk.

Learning to drive is such an exciting time for young people, but it comes with responsibility. It's down to those of us with years of experience to pass that knowledge on.

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KOS COMMENT

Don't ignore this crucial vote – take part in history

THE race is well and truly on for the position of Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

But almost certainly there will be many people still unaware or unsure of what the whole fuss is about. We can only hope that a fierce fight between the candidates will get people talking.

It's crucial that people take to the polls. This is about policing; something everyone will have an opinion on at some point in their life. The PCC will hold the most influential policing role in Kent and will set the county's priorities – your priorities. So while the battle rages on between the contenders, take a moment to look at what they are offering and take part in this piece of history on November 15.

Official end to summer

IT'S that time of year again when many of us will spend a whole day confused as to why it's got dark so early and the TV schedule is not matching times on our watches.

Let's try and avoid that this weekend and remember the clocks go back, and with it we get a long Sunday lie-in.

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We need the new airport

MUCH has already been written about the estuary airport project, but the facts are:

The proposal has never been formally debated with the arguments for, or against, properly aired by well-informed people.

The 'Say No' campaign has many vociferous supporters, though many seem very ill informed.

The fact of the matter is the country must have an up-to-date international airport if it is to remain economically competitive. Heathrow is now unfit for purpose, being really only a former RAF aerodrome, located in the wrong place.

A new, specially built airport is going to be created, as it must, and at the end of the day everybody will have to accept the elected govern-

ment's decision, like it or not.

Just think about some of the advantages:

The horrible monstrosity that is Kingsnorth power station chimney stack will be pulled down and all the other obsolete industrial eyesores, cranes, sheds, jetties, old barges, etc, will disappear.

The wreck of the Richard Montgomery will be removed or made safe, at long last. Acres of derelict and neglected salt marsh will be reclaimed, and put to good use. I am certain the birds will just move elsewhere.

The Medway towns will be rejuvenated and will come to life again after decades of depression and poverty. Property prices will rise. Business will expand, and many new jobs will become available. A prosperous future for the whole modernised area will become a fact.

The 'noise factor' is a red herring as the flight path will be predominately east-west, and over water, and

at least five miles distant.

Regarding pollution – just go outside and look up. The sky overhead (in Rainham) is already full of high flying aircraft and their contrails, with three or four being visible during daylight, even more at night when they show lights.

The time has come to stop burying heads in sand, to 'think big', and to embrace the 21st century.

Thank you Lord Foster, for your brilliant ideas.

RJ Church,
by email

BBC protected celebrity Savile

WHEN considering the case of the BBC Newsnight programme's investigation into the Jimmy Savile allegations, I could not help but think that if they had been investigating a Catholic priest or indeed any kind of clergyman, there would be no way they would have

dropped it if the case was as strong as against Savile.

This is not to play down the crimes of priests or anybody else, but it seems that the BBC as a collective body at best didn't want to believe the allegations against Savile because he had worked for them; and at worst, sub-consciously were less bothered by the alleged abuse because it had been committed by a celebrity, rather than a clergyman, politician or even an ordinary member of the public.

Some people might consider this paranoid, but I suspect that many people will share my view.

Daniel Watson,
Maidstone

Small charities need help too

WHILE it is sad to read the Cats Protection has had to close its doors to new arrivals because it is so "overwhelmed"

(KoS, October 21), I wonder if anyone pays any attention to the plight of countless small animal rescues working out of people's homes all over the country?

Cats in Crisis has been caring for up to 150 cats and kittens throughout the summer, in a variety of garden sheds, spare bedrooms, bathrooms, airing cupboards, converted garages, and the like.

We don't have the benefit of a well-known name, or of extensive fundraising potential. We don't have nice charity shops, a proper sanctuary or dedicated vehicles. Everyone works long hours, is unpaid and worn out.

Every month our expenditure exceeds income and we have to subsidise the bills from our own pensions and wages. In addition, we are increasingly being asked to help pay vets' bills for owners struggling to meet the astronomical costs of major treatments such as

road accidents, dentals, etc and are turning more and more people down because we cannot meet our own costs, let alone theirs.

So please spare a thought, and perhaps a couple of quid for us small guys.

Anyone able to offer a cat a new home can contact us on 07796 633306 or visit our website catsincrisis.org.

**Mary Knott, Chairman,
Cats in Crisis Thanet**

PCC vote will be too political

UNLIKE June Moore of Rusthall (Letters, October 21) I shall not be voting for any Police and Crime Commissioner candidate standing on a political ticket and if I don't receive any information from independent candidates, so that I can make an informed judgment, I shall not be voting at all.

I believe the outcome of the process has the prospect of 'politicising' the police, and candidates representing political parties should not be allowed. The only information for the Kent commissioner post that I have so far received has been from the candidate for the Conservative Party.

This is hardly surprising, as a potential independent candidate for another area withdrew his application, because he said the process was so weighted in favour of the political parties' candidates that it would be almost impossible for an independent candidate to generate sufficient support to win.

I believe that when it's over the results will show in possibly all 41 police areas where elections are being held, that a candidate representing a political party has been elected.

For example: in the Humber-side police area, the former Labour Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, is standing and has already launched his election manifesto. Being the most high-profile candidate standing there, who would bet against him being elected?

How, in these times of economic austerity, the Government could sanction such a profligate waste of public money on this political gimmick, just beggars belief.

**Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone**

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



Put on right footing to find lost pension cash

QI SHALL reach 60 in November. Thirty years ago, I worked for a chain of shoe shops for about five years and made contributions to its pension scheme.

I left and moved away, and I believe the company was taken over or closed down. Is there any way to trace my pension money?

ABECAUSE lots of people have lost touch with their pension savings over the years, the government set up the Pension Tracing Service (0845 600 2537).

It has files on thousands of old pension schemes and should be able to find yours and tell you how to claim.

QMY pension is linked to inflation, and the July figures show prices are 2.6pc higher. However, nothing I buy or see advertised seems to be just 2.6pc more expensive. What about the big price rises in things such as gas and electric that seemed to come in two or three years ago? Those price rises are still there.

AINFLATION is measured on year-to-year price changes in a basket of goods and services. Price rises that happened more than a year ago drop out of the picture. They have already been included in the figures that affected whatever pension increase you got last year.

The July figure largely reflected a fall in petrol prices, which typically fell from more than 140p a litre a few months ago to about 137p a litre.

This was still a rise on a year ago, but enough to hold the overall inflation rate at 2.6pc – half the peak of 5.2pc seen in September 2011.

QI HAVE just read a magazine article that says that there is a tax band of only 10pc for savings income up to £2,710. I wonder how many people know about this?

ATHE special tax band for income such as bank or building society interest is not straightforward.

The normal situation for most people is that they have a personal tax allowance of £8,105. This is the amount of income they can have this year before tax is due. Above this, tax starts at 20pc.

Now, you might think that if you have savings income of less than £2,710, it will be taxed only at 10pc. It is not quite this simple, though. If you have non-savings income such as pay or pensions that use up your tax-free £8,105 allowance, and then leave more than £2,710 on top, you do not qualify for the lower 10pc rate at all.

The only people who will get the

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



lower rate are those who have little or no other income, yet do have savings invested.

QI THINK I am correct in saying that if you manage to get a job at age 18, then this is when you start paying national insurance contributions. But what of those who go to university and graduate three years later? If they do not get a job until they are 21, do they lose three years' state pension rights?

AWHETHER or not someone has to pay national insurance contributions depends on their age and their earnings. The earnings limit changes frequently.

At present, anyone whose weekly earnings top £146 has to pay. But the starting age has not changed – and it is 16, not 18. So, does going to university until you are 21 mean that you miss out on five years of state pension rights?

Happily, the answer is no, it doesn't.

Until a couple of years ago, men needed 44 years of contributions to qualify for a full pension. Women needed 39 years. Particularly for men, this did make it a close thing.

If you left university at 21 and retired at 65, you would probably fall just short of the necessary 44 years unless you made a voluntary top-up payment. From 2010, though, both men and women can claim a full state pension after just 30 years of contributions.

QI HAVE a pension plan and I would like to know if I can take all the money out before I am 65. I will soon be 59 and am unemployed.

AYOU can draw your pension now, but you cannot simply take the whole of the plan proceeds as a lump sum.

You can do this only once you have reached 60, and then only if the amount is trivial. You would need to check with the company that provides the plan, but it is likely that it will fall under government rules saying you can take the cash only if it is under £2,000.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Equality of the sexes a high price to pay for all

You need to act now to benefit from lower insurance premiums ahead of new EU law. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

THERE are only about 60 days until new EU rules on insurance premiums kick in, with the possibility that millions of people will be charged more even though their individual circumstances will not have changed.

A directive banning insurers from taking your gender into account when calculating premiums comes into force just before Christmas, with likely implications for both sexes.

It may be the difference between existing prices for men and women will be levelled out, creating as many winners as losers. But what is certain is many people who currently enjoy competitive products by dint of their gender will find themselves paying more – or receiving less.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) made the ruling in March last year to a cacophony of complaints, with insurers making the point it was accepted practice to take into account all kinds of risk factors when calculating premiums.

But the protests fell on deaf ears, and the gender directive will come into force on December 21.

It will affect all sorts of insurance policies, including life insurance, motor insurance and pensions.

LIFE INSURANCE

The price difference between genders seems to have been maintained in the run-up to December, with women still able to buy much cheaper life insurance premiums.

But experts are warning women need to get their skates on if they want to continue to benefit from these discounts. Statistically, women live longer than men, so they have traditionally have paid less for life.

Matt Lloyd, at Confused.com, said: "How much you pay for life insurance at the moment is based on a number of factors specific to you: such as your age, your health and your sex. However, the EU [legislation] will prevent insurers from taking gender into account when they provide you with a price."

Money-minder.com, a life and protection comparison website, said women planning to take out life insurance in the next few months should consider arranging at least some of their cover early so they can lock in at the lower pricing before insurers are forced to equalise the premiums between both sexes.

Simply having made an application for cover by the cut-off date of December 21 might not be sufficient. Many insurers will require applicants to be fully underwritten and to have



accepted terms by then, rather than having just applied.

"The fact is it can take three or four weeks to go through full underwriting if the insurer requires you to have a medical examination or needs extra information from your doctor, so women should have their applications well under way in November in order to lock in at these lower prices before December 21," said Money-minder's Ray Black.

"Whatever premium you agree now, if it's a guaranteed premium and you've been underwritten and accepted by the insurer, you'll pay that premium throughout the entire term of the policy, and the saving over a 20 or 25-year term could be thousands of pounds."

MOTOR INSURANCE

Tiger.co.uk, a price-comparison site that monitors the market on a monthly basis, said recently that motor insurance premiums had fallen to a two-year low, with a drop of 8pc over the past six months. But the price difference for men and women remains for now, with research by Moneysupermarket.com – another price-comparison service – finding that a man pays £111 a year more on average than a woman does.

"Gender has always been a critical differentiator when pricing insurance premiums, with male motorists across the board bearing the brunt of a 'boy racer' reputation," said Kevin Pratt, an insurance expert at Moneysupermarket.

"The ECJ ruling will mean insurers re-evaluate the way in which they set their prices. Premiums for female drivers are particularly competitive at the moment, so anyone whose insurance is coming up for renewal this autumn should make the most of

the situation by shopping around now and securing a good deal."

Scott Kelly, at GoCompare.com, said women drivers could face premium increases of between £300 and £2,000.

"The introduction of unisex rates is likely to have a sudden and dramatic impact, as insurers seem to be holding off until the last minute," he said.

PENSIONS

People looking to buy annuities will be well aware of the poor deals on offer at the moment.

Rising life expectancy and low returns on investments mean that annuity rates – the 'income for life' people buy with the money they have saved during their careers – are nearer 6pc than the 16pc they were in the 1990s. (An annuity rate of 6pc means you get £6,000 a year income for every £100,000 you have saved.)

But things could get even worse for many people approaching retirement, because the EU's 'gender-neutral' rules will also apply to annuities.

After all, annuities are sold by insurance companies, which base their payments on their best guess of your life expectancy. It is a sort of insurance policy in reverse, and therefore subject to the EU directive.

Because women live longer than men, insurers can afford to pay men a little more each month at the moment, as they are likely to be claiming their pensions for a shorter period. That means it will be men who will lose out from December 21.

Scott Mullen, of My Pension Expert, said: "With rates at historic lows anyway, male retirees should get a move on with their annuity purchases, and try to get them bought prior to the rates changing."

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Isle of Wight Free Bar Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Warner Norton

Grange Resort

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Was £199pp

Sale Price £189pp

Quote XN11-KOS

Friday 30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Good News Holidays annual Warner Christmas Party Extravaganza.

Our private party break – for over 40s only – will be the usual blend of fun and festivities along with great food and entertainment.

Norton Grange Resort – nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight – will be decked out for the Festive season.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during

In association with **Warner Leisure Hotels**

- SAVE £20 PER COUPLE***
- Queen Tribute**
- Free Car Ferry worth £40**
- Several Singles available no supp't**

your stay, you will enjoy great entertainment including Queen tribute band Majesty, comedy vocalist Ian Larkin and much more.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft
- drinks & mixers
- Car ferry crossing worth £40
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Was £239pp
Sale Price £229pp

Quote BX1-KOS

Friday 11 January, 2013

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities – for over 40s only. This year's party at Warner Bembridge was a big hit with our guests, many described it as their best party break ever! Next year we're back at Bembridge, our favourite Warner hotel, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight.

Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party – complete with countdown to midnight and Big Ben striking in the New Year. And, to help the party go with a swing, we've included Free Drinks every day. You're also assured of Warner's quality hallmark. Enjoy great food – breakfast AND dinner every day in the recently refurbished restaurant – and entertainment

In association with **Warner Leisure Hotels**

- SAVE £20 PER COUPLE***
- £10pp deposit**
- Free Car Ferry worth £40**
- Free Drinks**

every evening. Bembridge also has a full range of leisure facilities including, a fully-equipped gym and indoor swimming pool.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment & activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available

- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £40

Come Dancing Party
Enjoy ballroom and latin dancing? We're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party – add social dancing, dance tuition, top dancers in cabaret, a Gala Ball, reserved seating and much more for just £20pp extra

Showtime Extravaganza Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Holiday Village
Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Was £159pp

Sale Price £149pp

Quote XM11-KOS

Friday 23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed private Christmas Party – for over 40s only – at Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy 99p drinks and a full programme of entertainment including afternoon matinee shows.

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Let's Hang On - the world's no.1 tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

- Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons

- The Dagenham Girl Pipers

- Songs from the Disney Songbook

- Over 40s only**
- 99p Drinks**
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coffee making facilities - upgrades available.

INCLUDED: 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Variety Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available.

All Inclusive Bruges & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise

Escorted Rail to River Cruise

4 days all-inclusive

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Sale Price From £399pp

Quote CX12-KOS

1 & 4 December, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed private cruise, taking in Bruges, Ghent, Ostend and an array of fabulous Christmas markets. Our floating hotel, the ms Princess – exclusively chartered by Good News Holidays – will deliver us to each town in comfort and style with everything on board included – all drinks from 9am to midnight, breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks and entertainment.

On our journey to join the cruise in Belgium we experience the thrill and convenience of European rail travel with a total journey time of less than 3 hours each way.

We then cruise along peaceful Belgian waterways from town to town, staying overnight at each.

- SAVE £200 PER COUPLE***

Refurbished in 2010, the ms Princess accommodates just 100 guests in comfort and style. There is a cosy lounge-bar and restaurant, all with panoramic views.

Dinner is a real highlight with 4 courses served at your table each night. All cabins are twin berth with private facilities, tv, telephone and heating.

TRAIN TIMES:

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INCLUDED:

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email nick.ames@archant.co.uk.

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Your business is our business

Creative Foundation provides inspiration

In recent years, news on the business front has often been of the downbeat variety. But this week we are happy to report that the cultural regeneration of Folkestone has been hailed as a blueprint for further development in the east of the county, while the north is in line for a funding boost. So it seems the Government and investors alike appreciate that Kent's business community has remained positive and forward-thinking even during the worst days of the economic downturn. Maybe, just maybe, things are turning round, reports **Nick Ames**.

THE arts-led regeneration of Folkestone has been held up as a model of what can be achieved in those areas of east Kent earmarked for economic revival.

Shepway, Thanet, Dover and Canterbury will receive cash from the Government's Regional Growth Fund – which is offering £30 million in loans to businesses that want to expand in the areas or move there and £5 million for improvements in transport infrastructure.

Its aim is to create 5,000 jobs and runs alongside the Grow For It campaign, which is aimed at marketing east Kent to the world. It is administered by Kent County Council with the object of boosting the economic prospects of an area that was badly hit by the loss of more than 1,000 jobs when the Pfizer plant closed.

And the changing fortunes of some of Folkestone's most deprived areas can act as a catalyst and inspiration for neighbouring towns, says politician Damian Collins.

The Folkestone and Hythe MP paid a visit to the regeneration project run under the auspices of the Creative Foundation, which backs arts-related businesses by renovating properties, providing business back-up and charging affordable rents.

Its guiding light is businessman and philanthropist Roger de Haan, who sold the Saga holiday company, which was founded by his father.

"Grow For It is important as it is the first time we have seen a dedicated campaign promoting east Kent as a place to do business," said Collins.

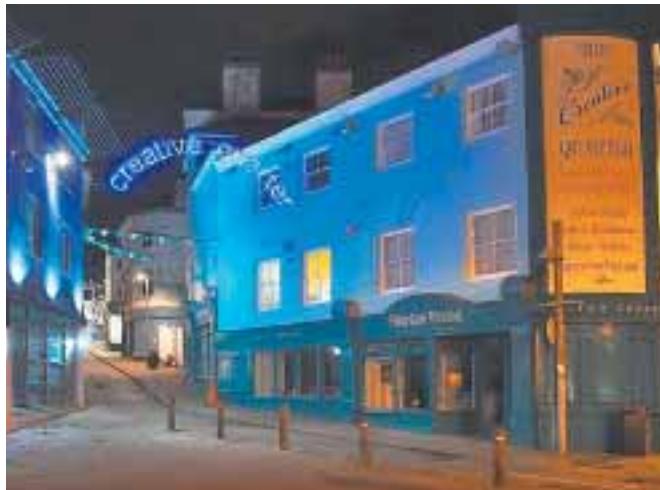
"But you have to bang a drum and let people know it's there – especially business people who might be looking to move into the area from elsewhere – and Folkestone shows what can be achieved."

"As well as its arts-related businesses, the town has attracted companies involved in such things as animation and it could be a real hub for those working in digital media, in such things as video-gaming."

KEA



Pictures: PAUL JERRAT



LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: The Old High Street is emerging from gloom

The Creative Foundation is based in an area that was previously the most neglected and run-down part of the once-fashionable seaside resort.

It has so far restored 90 buildings and has an 84 per cent occupancy rate for its properties. Since November 2011 it has seen a 14 per cent increase in rental income.

Its ethos fits perfectly with Grow For It, which wants to promote industries involved in green technologies, tourism and scientific research.

Andrew Park is director and founder of Cognitive Media, an animation and design company that works mainly on business presentations.

He feels the Creative Foundation project shows how companies associated more with fashionable parts of London can benefit by relocating to places not normally on the 'trendy' radar.

"Folkestone is a burgeoning place for creative businesses," he said. "I started on my own five years ago and now there are 10 people working here. I could not

have done that working in London merely because of the costs of the overheads.

"I've met some really talented people here – editors, writers and the like – and our ethos is to employ locally so that the town and its people all benefit."

"As we expand we want to attract prop-builders, set-designers and camera-operators. We even have plans to create an animation school."

Among the companies to have made a success of a move to Folkestone is Arc Creative Design, which supplies information panels to tourist and heritage attractions across the UK.

The company is made up of a number of people who each worked from home but banded together to open an office along the town's Tontine Street, which, along with The Old High Street is the hub of Creative Foundation activities.

A few months after moving in, it landed a £120,000 contract with Natural England, which will rise to £192,000 over two years. According to

BLUEPRINT: Alistair Upton is still excited about Folkestone's regeneration efforts

the directors, acquiring the office "made sure the business was taken far more seriously".

One of the centrepieces of the regeneration project is Quarterhouse – home to comedy and music performances – while the Triennial arts festival and book festival both attract leading names.

Another big success is Rocksalt, a restaurant along the quayside with stunning views across the harbour. One of the most talked-about new eateries in England, it is run by Mark Sargeant, who is a former head chef at Gordon Ramsay's Michelin-starred restaurant at Claridge's, which specialises in local produce.

Two of the major attractions for companies looking to invest in east Kent are its communications and property prices. Creative Foundation-backed businesses say rents are about a quarter of those charged in places such as Shoreditch, which is one of London's emerging growth points for arts, culture and media.

Lower house prices and immediate access to the countryside and beaches are also attractive, especially to professionals with young families, while journey times from Folkestone to central London are less than an hour on the high-speed train. Part of the money available to promote east Kent growth is to be used to speed up journeys between Thanet and London.

Alistair Upton is CEO of the Creative Foundation and thinks Folkestone provides a blueprint for regeneration.

"There is a whole level of energy and excitement at this point in its development," he said. "Folkestone represents great value for money on both a personal and corporate level."

The overall investment drive for east Kent will run over three years and county council leader Paul Carter said the campaign would "wake up the world" to the area's potential.

"East Kent is unique and has vast potential to grow its economy," he said.

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Is £20 million cash injection the answer for north Kent?

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESSES in the Thames Gateway are in line to receive £20 million to support new investment and jobs in Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale.

Ministers announced that Tiger – or Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise – is one of 130 schemes nationally to receive money from the Government's £2.4 billion Regional Growth Fund.

The scheme is set to be up and running by April next year. It will offer low-interest loans to businesses investing in new products and services that will create long-term job opportunities; it has the aim of unlocking additional private-sector finance.

There have been two previous rounds of RGF funding in the county. A total of £35m was made available for Expansion East Kent, which will assist in business growth and job creation. Also, £5m has been allocated for rail improvements between Ashford and Ramsgate.

Paul Carter, leader of Kent County Council, said: "Tiger is a great opportunity for businesses with the appetite for investment and growth. Business will be the backbone of north Kent's economic recovery – and Tiger will help to unlock its potential."



NEW FUNDING OPTION: Sheerness is one of the areas that could benefit from the potential investment cash

The new scheme has been secured after a bid to the Regional Growth Fund by the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership, with the support of local businesses.

The news has been greeted as a show of confidence in the area and council leaders say it will be a huge boost to both investment and job creation.

Rob Bennett, chairman of Thames Gateway Kent Partnership, said: "Government backing for Tiger is a huge vote of confidence in the Thames Gateway – one of the UK's most important economic-growth areas. Coming on top of recent investment in

transport and infrastructure, it's another reason the Gateway is a great place to set up and grow a business."

As well as the Kent side of the Thames, the fund will also be available to businesses in Thurrock, Essex. It is also the latest example of money to boost business opportunities in Medway and Swale.

Andrew Bowles, leader of Swale Borough Council, said: "Swale is a great place to invest or to expand an existing business. This fund is brilliant news and will offer financial help to businesses that want to take advantage of our excellent location, facilities and workforce."

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, had a similar message: "This is a significant endorsement from the Government of our approach to regeneration and it clearly shows we continue to be a place where businesses are welcome and can grow with confidence."

"We look forward to working across north Kent to help as many businesses as possible benefit from this funding so that it creates more jobs in the shortest possible time."

Work is under way to determine the details of how the scheme will operate and how businesses will be able to apply.



HOME-BUYING PROCESS

Award proves commitment to standards

GIRLINGS SOLICITORS has secured membership of the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme – the mark of excellence for the home-buying process.

Law Society president Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said that the Law Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the world of home-buying.

It has established itself as the quality mark of the home-buying sector and enables consumers to identify practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service.

Ian Burrow, head of the Girling's residential conveyancing department, said: "Girling's is delighted to have secured CQS status.

"Buying and selling a home can be a stressful time. Choosing a solicitor to help in that process just got easier. By looking for a CQS firm like Girling's Solicitors, the public can seek out a firm that has proved its commitment to quality."

"The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Girling's Solicitors when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self-reporting, random audits and annual reviews to maintain CQS status.

The new saw that will help group exploit last source of quality rag



A £100,000 investment in a precision saw at a Kent quarry will enable it to exploit the last remaining source of high-quality Kentish ragstone.

The specialist saw installed at Hermitage Quarry, near Maidstone, will allow operators to cut stone on site to specified sizes for stonemasons.

With a three-metre diameter blade, the Van Voorden Apollo 6 primary saw has been installed by Gallagher Group and enables the company to offer 'sawn six-sided' and 'dimensional slab' Kentish ragstone.

After cutting the ragstone to the specified sizes, any off-cuts of stone are recycled and crushed.

The high-quality stone has been used for construction since Roman times. It is still used in the conservation and restoration of

MEETING DEMAND: The saw means that stone can be cut on site and any left-over materials can be put to other uses

churches, historic buildings and bridges and in the construction of new structures such as homes, supermarkets and walls in conservation areas.

Nick Yandle, chief executive of Gallagher Group, a building, civil engineering, aggregates and property-development company, said: "We are now the only source of quality Kentish ragstone. Undertaking the primary sawing on site reduces transport costs, cuts down waste management at the stonemasons' works and enables the off-cuts to be recycled into aggregate."

"This helps reduce the cost of building stone and provide a more comprehensive service to our customers while also boosting our environmental performance."

"Kentish ragstone has been used for more than 2,000 years as an attractive and functional building stone for many buildings across London and the South East. There is still a continuing and strong demand for the stone."

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Training, courses and careers

Driving school is launched by MidKent College

OFFICIALS say that a new driving school offering lessons at £17 per hour is going down a storm with staff and students at MidKent College.

Officially launched last week, the college says the new venture aims to help learner motorists struggling to overcome rising fuel and insurance costs to get behind the wheel.

Two cars carrying the MidKent College Driving School logo – a Ford Focus and Hyundai i10 – were parked outside the Medway Campus for the launch event while instructors handed out fliers to staff and students.

The Maidstone Campus launch took place this week.

Programme administrator Matt Brown said: "It's very expensive to run a vehicle these days so it's no surprise our super-value lessons are attracting such a great deal of interest."

"We handed out hundreds of fliers and have received lots of expressions of interest already, so we're confident this new venture will be a great success."

"We want people to continue to enjoy coming to college, which is why it is such a high priority to find new ways to improve the student experience."

Non-staff and students can also sign up to lessons through MidKent College Driving School, but at the higher price of £21 per hour.

The new business has been set up in partnership with Medway-based TopClass, whose instructors will carry out the training.

TopClass manager Tim Hunt said: "We're delighted to be working with MidKent College on this exciting new venture."

"It's fantastic that the students will benefit in this way and be taught the correct, safest way to drive on our roads."

Forklift training is a female first for apprentice Alex

SIXTEEN-year-old Alex Blake from Hoo, near Rochester, has got her career off to a flying start as the only female apprenticeship at material handling company, Linde.

Alex was one of 18 new recruits selected from across the UK to join the company to begin training as a fork truck engineer. She will be employed by Linde MH South East Ltd and be based at its site at the Port of Sheerness.

She beat off competition from 100 applicants and now works at Linde, with a day each week and block release at MidKent College.

Linde introduced the Fork Lift Truck Association approved apprenticeship scheme in 2011 as part of an industry push towards attracting younger people into the industry.

Alex joins Linde's second intake of apprentices and she will become a fully qualified fork truck engineer at the end of the course. Alex is the only female to join the company as an apprentice.

Speaking about her apprenticeship, Alex said: "I wanted to join the apprenticeship scheme to learn about forklift trucks and learn new things. Eventually I'd like to become a qualified mechanic or engineer so this is a great start for me."

The programme consists of providing vocational and technical related training for the apprentices with a focus on commercial awareness.

£1m to help people find a job and stay in work

A £1 million investment in jobs and more apprenticeship opportunities for people in Medway have been announced by the council.

Medway Council has

launched a project that will see

£1m invested in helping long-

term unemployed people hold

down jobs in Medway over the

next three years.

The European project, IM-PRESS, is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and cash from central government, and helps people who have found a job, stay in work.

This includes one-to-one job coaches and access to NVQ training to help with career progression.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Cllr Jane Chitty, also announced a further commitment to apprentices in Medway, with plans to subsidise 20 apprenticeships in partnership with Jobcentre Plus in the next three months.

The council will team

up with Jobcentre Plus to offer

20 people, who have been un-

employed for between three to nine months, an apprenticeship.

Cllr Chitty said: "We have once again managed to lever in a significant amount of money to plough back into our economy here in Medway, to help hundreds of people not only find

nine months, an apprenticeship.

Cllr Chitty said:

"We have once again managed to lever in a significant amount of money to plough back into our economy here in Medway, to help hundreds of people not only find

nine months, an apprenticeship.

"We already have a range of successful measures to help people find work or training and what's crucial about this new project is it means we are doing what we can to sustain this – helping people find jobs that they can develop in as professionals."

Partnership manager for Medway

Jobcentre Plus Sue Harrison said: "This new partnership between the council and Jobcentre Plus to give jobseekers the chance to train through an apprenticeship will not only entice businesses, with the potential of a subsidy, but also help more people take their first steps to a future career."



WORK: Cllr Chitty and apprentices at the Construction Expo 2012 at the Historic Dockyard Chatham

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University says graduate interns will be a business boost for companies

BUSINESSES in Kent and Medway are set to benefit from a new internship programme being launched at the University of Greenwich.

The programme, aimed primarily at small and medium-sized companies, will match employers with recent graduates for a four-week, full-time internship.

Graduates will have the skills to work on short projects in, for example, market research, marketing, social media, strategy and data analysis.

They will also take part in a series of intensive training days at the university, covering presentation and communication skills, to prepare them for their roles and make sure both parties get the most out of the placement.

Jerry Allen from the university's Business School, who is leading the Graduate Internship scheme, says: "Many employers like to 'try before they buy' and this is a perfect way for graduates to put themselves in the shop

window. At the same time, we are boosting the economy by offering an injection of graduate level skills to businesses, so we're giving something back to the community as well."

"The internship scheme will also be helping our graduates gain a vital advantage in the jobs market, at a time when getting on the first rung of the ladder has rarely been more difficult."

"It should prove to be a win-win situation for employers and graduates alike."

"In an immensely competitive job market, the experience our graduates will have during their internships could make all the difference when it comes to landing that all-important first position."

"They will be developing their commercial awareness and acumen in a real business environment, undertaking strategic, and often demanding, work that will require them to complete tasks in a tight timeframe."

"The experience will enhance their CVs and

also their personal and business skills."

The University of Greenwich's campuses include the shared Medway campus at Chatham Maritime, which trains students in science, engineering, technology, healthcare and business programmes.

The graduate internship scheme is open to all Greenwich graduates.

Businesses taking part will include those in the IT, software, security, training and voluntary sectors, and direct approaches from firms are welcome.

Mr Allen added: "A high-quality internship will distinguish those taking part from other graduates, and give them a priceless insight into how a business operates in the real world."

"We know that employers really value this, and this experience will make our graduates stand out."

The internships will start in early January next year.

Schools & education

EastEnders masterclass for would-be TV directors

AN acting masterclass by an EastEnders director has been a major success for media students.

It was run by TV director Steve Finn, who is usually found working in Albert Square. He even blew up the Sun Hill police station.

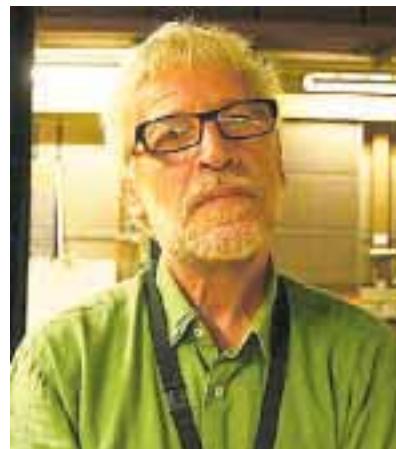
He ran the session for students at the University for the Creative Arts to give them a taste of what would be expected from them in the real world of acting.

Mr Finn has worked on some of Britain's most famous and established shows, and is keen to keep the supply of employable young actors going so he agreed to help the first year broadcast media students at the Maidstone TV Studios where the course is based.

Over his 30-year career, Mr Finn has directed hundreds of episodes of Casualty, Holby City, Brookside and The Bill, where he famously blew up Sun Hill police station, but he is best-known for his work on EastEnders which he has directed for the past 13 years.

His masterclass focused on how to get a performance out of every kind of actor and how scenes can be directed in different ways.

He said: "Coming here and teaching these very keen students the art of directing actors has been



ALBERT SQUARE: EastEnders director Steve Finn

a great experience for me. Having a course based in working studios like this is a great starting point for their careers in the industry."

Student Neil Morris was delighted to take part. He said: "Having first-hand tuition from a working professional like Steve is just brilliant. He's doing the job I want, so to hear from him personally has been mind blowing."

And Simon Welsford, senior lecturer for broadcast media, added: "Having a director of Steve's calibre and experience come into our course is a great coup and again highlights the unique industry links that our course has.

"The students really benefited from his unique industry insight and learned a great deal. They, of course, also loved hearing all of the stories Steve had from the EastEnders set."

Music classes as easy as ABC

YOUNG children are pioneering an award-winning, innovative and new music programme introduced by Kent Music.

Kindermusik International's ABC Music & Me curriculum helps children of all ages progress in and out of school by developing literacy, language, cognitive, physical, social and emotional development.

Education charity Kent Music started running the Kindermusik Pilot for Early Years Foundation Stage in schools across Kent in September.

Kent Music chief executive Peter Bolton said: "ABC Music & Me is designed in such a way that it enhances children's development in all areas of learning.

"It also gives teachers and parents the resources to support this learning inside and outside of school."

Teachers who want to know more about the Kindermusik Pilot, or to arrange a meeting or workshop in a school, can contact Felicity Vinall on 01622 358422 or email finall@kent-music.com.

Students use human rights project to prepare for their English GCSE exams

YEAR 9 English students at the Folkestone Academy have been using the work of Amnesty International as a background for GCSE English exam preparation.

In bid to find new ways to engage with all forms of writing, reading, speaking and listening, students have been exploring the complex subject of human rights.

Pupils were given the opportunity to set up their own Academy Amnesty Student Group to raise awareness of the human rights campaign within the academy.

Their first activity was to

lead a school assembly to highlight human rights issues and the work that Amnesty do. Following on from this they were interviewed on community radio station 105.9 Academy FM Folkestone.

Michelle Hill, English teacher and organiser of the Academy Amnesty Student Group, said: "With Year 9 English students we like to expand their knowledge of worldwide issues, while helping them to learn skills essential to their English GCSE course.

"I encourage the student group to consider how they

can support causes they feel strongly about through writing letters, designing posters and organising protests and fundraising events."

Students also visited Age UK in Folkestone to talk with clients about the Amnesty International posters they had created during English lessons, and more generally about their work on human rights.

English teacher Lorna Kenny said: "It was lovely to see our students interacting so enthusiastically with the older men and women in the centre. I am very proud of them."



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NORTH WEST KENT COLLEGE



Year 7 entry in September 2013

On Saturday 10th November King's Rochester will be holding an Assessment Morning for entry to Year 7 (11+) in September 2013. Papers will be set in English, Mathematics and Non-Verbal Reasoning but, here at King's, we also consider the child's all-round interests and talents, including Sport and/or Music. Academic, Music and Sports Scholarships are awarded to suitably talented applicants.

The Assessments will take place at King's Rochester Preparatory School, King Edward Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 1UB. Candidates should arrive between 9am – 9.30am and will be free to leave at 12.45pm. Refreshments will be provided during the morning.

For further information and to book a place for your child, please contact our Registrar, Mrs Lynne Davies, on: 01634 888590 or email: admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk.

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Senior School Scholarships for September 2013 entry:

11+ Examination for Year 7: Thursday 22nd November

For an informal discussion about the scholarship process and how to apply, please contact Alison Hall by phone 01843 572931 or email ah@slcuk.com

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11+ Assessments to be held at King's Rochester Preparatory School on Saturday 10th November 2012 at 9.30am - 12.45pm
To book, contact: Lynne Davies T: 01634 888590 E: admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk www.kings-rochester.co.uk

ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE, RAMSGATE

Top facilities available with scholarships

THE anxious wait is finally over for those families whose children sat the 11+ Kent Test.

The results are now known and if you have a child currently studying in Year 6, whether they have passed the 11+ or not, there is another option open to you. Have you considered looking at St Lawrence College in Ramsgate for the next stage of your child's education?

Year 6 pupils are welcome to sit the school's forthcoming scholarship tests for entry into Year 7 in September 2013.

The scholarship tests take place on Thursday, November 22, when candidates are invited to spend the day at St Lawrence College.

Depending upon the results, up to 50 per cent

of the fees could be awarded. Scholarships are offered for academic, all-rounder, sports and musical disciplines, so whatever your child's strength, there is something to suit.

St Lawrence College was given a glowing report by inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate at the end of last year and they confirmed that "the quality of the teaching throughout the school is excellent" and "the quality of the pupils' personal development is outstanding".

The school was commended for the range of subjects offered and the breadth of extracurricular activities available. The extensive school grounds contain outstanding sporting

facilities, including an indoor heated swimming pool and a new sports centre housing badminton courts, squash courts, an indoor climbing wall, cricket nets and even state-of-the-art fitness room and dance studio.

September this year saw the opening of a stunning 500-seat in-school theatre to further enhance the school's vibrant dramatic arts and music departments.

If you want to know more about the scholarships available or would like an informal discussion or a visit to St Lawrence College, please phone Alison Hall on 01843 572931 or email her at ah@slcuk.com.

Learn more at www.slcuk.com.



OPTIONS: Pupils can still apply for a scholarship



EXPLORE LEARNING, SOUTHBOROUGH

Boost confidence and skills before exams

PREPARING for the 11+ can be a tricky time for parents who may be unsure about where to turn for help and advice.

Well, parents in Kent now have another option from which to choose as Explore Learning, the popular provider of English and maths tuition for children aged five to 14, has this month opened its new centre in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells. This is its 66th centre to open nationwide, and the second to open in the county, complementing its Sainsbury's-based centre in Ashford.

Southborough centre director Sarah Stenning said: "We're thrilled to open our new centre in

Southborough and at such a central location where parents can drop in their children at a time that suits them, whether it be after school or at weekends.

"Parents love it not only because they see an improvement in their children's maths and English but also because it encourages them to have fun while learning."

Explore Learning is currently running comprehensive 11+ and entrance-exam courses for youngsters preparing to take their exams next year.

The workshops are taught in small groups once a week and focus on improving verbal and

non-verbal reasoning skills as well as their numeracy and literacy, which comes as standard in all Explore Learning classes.

Tutors take a fun and relaxed approach to teaching, with each lesson including games and activities that help to boost a child's confidence while eliminating anxiety ahead of the exams.

The Explore Learning tutors take the utmost care to ensure that the pupils are ready to tackle the exams with confidence.

For more information, phone the Southborough centre on 01892 731932, email southborough@explorelearning.co.uk or visit www.explorelearning.co.uk.

NEW OPENING: Try Explore Learning in Kent

KING'S ROCHESTER

Scholarships launched to celebrate new sports centre

KING'S Rochester Preparatory School will be holding an assessment morning on Saturday, November 10, for entry to Year 7 in September 2013.

Papers will be set in English, mathematics and non-verbal reasoning, while there will be consideration of all-round interests and talents, including sport and music.

Academic, music and sports scholarships may be awarded to suitable applicants.

King's Rochester has a number of



exciting projects outlined for the academic year ahead.

From the beginning of September, Saturday lessons ceased at the school, with the working week being

restructured to increase the amount of teaching time while fitting into five days, this being more appropriate to modern family life while maintaining the Saturday sporting programme and

LINED UP:
Pupils can look forward to a range of new projects in the academic year ahead

enabling more activities for boarders. King's is also in the process of establishing a web-based careers network for current and former pupils to help King's pupils stand out to potential employers in the future.

Having recently acquired Stirling Sports Centre from Medway Council, King's will be refurbishing the facilities to provide some of the best school sporting facilities in the South East.

King's Rochester Sports Centre will have nine new outdoor tennis and netball courts, indoor hockey/

badminton/cricket nets, changing rooms, a fitness suite and physio facilities as well as a bar and viewing area. The centre will also be open to the public. Olympic-standard astroturfs are also available to pupils at the adjoining Holcombe Hockey Club.

To celebrate this acquisition, King's is offering up to five sports scholarships for 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry in September 2013. Application forms are available from the registrar, Lynne Davies (phone 01634 888590, email admissions@kings-rochester.co.uk).



THE 2012 KENT AND MEDWAY TEST RESULTS

The results are in... but no need to panic

AFTER an anxious wait for parents and children alike, the 11+ results were revealed last week.

For the Kent Test, 5,370 children were found suitable for grammar school out of the 11,451 that sat the test – a 45 per cent success rate.

A total of 1,298 of the successful youngsters live outside the county – a figure similar to recent years and a key factor in pressure on places in the west of county.

This 5,370 will now hope to secure one of 4,545 grammar-school places in Kent for September 2013, meaning 825 will miss out.

For the Medway Test, 2,078 children sat the exams, including those from outside the area, with 923 found suitable for grammar school.

There are 926 selective places available in Medway.

It is now time for parents of children in Year 6 moving up to secondary schools in September 2013 to apply to their local authority, stating their preferred school choices. Those in Kent can list four schools and in Medway, six.

Mike Whiting, county council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said: "This can be an exciting and challenging time for children and families. I would encourage any families who haven't yet decided which school to apply for, to talk to the primary head-teachers about which schools would be best suited to meeting their child's future educational needs and then visit the secondary schools they are most

interested in before applying."

Eight secondaries in Kent are deemed 'super-selective', whereby they can give priority to children who scored the highest marks in the Kent or Medway Test.

They include Skinners School in Tunbridge Wells, The Judd School in Tonbridge, Tonbridge Grammar School, Rochester Grammar School, Rainham Mark Grammar in Gillingham, Dartford Grammar School for Girls and Simon Langton for Boys in Canterbury.

Download KCC's Admission to Secondary School 2013 booklet at www.kent.gov.uk, or visit <http://bit.ly/WDCtmO> for details of Medway's application process.

WRITE ON: Exciting times for children at school



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8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 5 weeks paid holiday entitlement, pro rata.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: **9 November 2012**

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Head of School: Mr S Cox MA

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Closing date: Friday 2 November 2012, 12 noon

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

For further information please visit our website at www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Flexible and Reliable approach to working

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Caroline McSkeane, Outpatient Administration Supervisor on 01843 234555 x 62044

For job description and application form please contact:

Mandy Oliver

East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing

QEQM Hospital

Ramsgate Road

Margate

Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556

Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencering.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

Career opportunities at MidKent College

Teaching & Learning Manager for Foundation Learning, ESOL and Additional Learning Support

Come and join the team at one of the largest and most successful further and higher education colleges in the South East.

With state-of-the-art campuses in Medway and Maidstone and strong financial health, we are passionate about teaching, learning and the development of our staff.

We are in the final stages of putting together a new team of Teaching & Learning Managers to drive forward a flexible, engaging and enterprising curriculum.

MidKent College has achieved its best ever success rates and is looking for a talented, self-motivated teaching professional with a strong desire to take us to the next level.

The department consists of:

- A Foundation Learning Department that supports students who have specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities or who have been out of education for a variety of reasons.
- An ESOL department.
- An Additional Learning Support team who offer various levels of support to students across college.

The successful applicant will earn a basic salary of £38,169 and can look forward to 35 days annual leave, eligibility to join the teachers' pension scheme and other benefits. If you have a track record of delivering high quality teaching and learning in a relevant specialism, with the skills and ambition to manage a curriculum area successfully and to lead your team to deliver outstanding teaching, learning and assessment, we would welcome your application.

Contact the College to request an application pack or an informal discussion with the relevant Head of Faculty.

Closing date: midday on Thursday 8 November 2012

Tel: 01634 383706 o Email: job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
MidKent College

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas..

Higher Education Administrator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £10,384 - £18,066 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an experienced administrator to join our team working on the UCAS and Student Loans Company systems. The successful candidate should have experience of working with databases, preferably those mentioned, have a flexible attitude to work, the ability to quickly pick up on new systems and be a good team player.
Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Higher Education Learner Voice Coordinator, fixed term, part time

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and ambitious person to help develop systems for enhancing the experience of our Higher Education Learners. The successful candidate would work with the Student Union president and management information teams to develop our methods for engaging our learners. They will need to be energetic, resourceful and a people person as well as having good IT and organisational skills. The College would particularly welcome applications from a recent graduate of a local University or Further Education College.
Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Apprentice in Student Welfare, full time, one year contract

Medway Campus

The college is looking to appoint an apprentice on the Business Administration framework within the Student Support department. This is an exciting opportunity if you are confident communicating with a range of people and have excellent ICT skills. The role requires the ideal candidate to be organised and able to maintain confidentiality, demonstrate excellent customer service, and prioritise the workload, whilst working with empathy for students needing support. The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work. You will undertake a recognised qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship.

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.
Closing date: midday on 1 November 2012

Youth Worker Apprentices x 2, full time

Refs: P0165, P0166

Medway and Maidstone

We are currently seeking two energetic and professional young people to enhance our youth work offer at the college to provide students with opportunities to build their own skills, develop on and offsite activities and participate in college enrichment opportunities such as sport, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering. You will be fully supported through the college Student Support team and day to day mentoring, support and guidance will be with the college Youth Worker and Students' Union. On a day to day basis you will cross all departments in the college to ensure engagement by students and staff. You will be expected to work across our two main campuses; Medway and Maidstone. The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work. You will undertake a recognised Youth Work qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship.

Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.
Closing date: Thursday 8 November

Student Welfare Officer, part time, permanent

20 hours per week / 40 weeks per year

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 per annum, pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to appoint a Part time Student Welfare Officer for our Maidstone campus to enhance our current team. The successful applicant will be a professional lead for Safeguarding and work as a Safeguarding Officer, working with the Designated Child Protection Coordinator. The post-holder will also act as first line support for those who may require referral to the College Counselling service and will support in the administration of the Counselling service. They will also continue to develop, implement and monitor the health and welfare services for students and provide advice, support and information to students regarding safeguarding and welfare issues. We are seeking a highly motivated and organised professional, with a background in the welfare sector, local authority health, social care or specialist projects.

The post holder will work with Personal Tutors, Youth Workers and the Student Union President to actively implement activities designed to improve the health and well-being of students.
Closing date: midday on 8 November 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Fill your job vacancies fast

To advertise in this section call:
01303 817040



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

CHILHAM

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £13,400

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com

Alternatively e-mail joan.williams@achuk.com or contact Joan Williams on 020 8502 8841.



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in

HYTHE

SUPPORT WORKERS

Salary from £13,400

BANK SUPPORT WORKERS

£6.61 per hour

For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com

Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Louise Burrows on 020 8502 8871.



SHARPS BEDROOMS & HOME OFFICE

- NEW SHOWROOMS COMING SOON!

*Creating exciting sales opportunities
- OTE - £20k pro rata*



Vacancies for: Full-Time Relief Showroom Manager - covering Kent (37.5hrs per week) & Part-Time Showroom Consultant (Maidstone 22hrs per week & Tunbridge Wells 16hrs per week).

We are delighted to announce that Sharps Bedrooms are opening 2 brand new showrooms in Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells. To compliment our fantastic new showrooms, we are looking for the right team members to run our showrooms and demonstrate our amazing products and services whilst delivering industry-leading customer service. The right candidates will have the personality and flair to present our offerings of bespoke bedroom furniture to our customers, inspiring them to make the right choices. This will suit someone with a passion for home improvements and the determination to over-achieve. We will support the right candidate with a healthy remuneration package, including un-capped commissions and full training on our products and services.

If this is the kind of job you would thrive in then please contact Rachal immediately on 07880856157 or e-mail your c.v. to us at gill.pangborn@sharps-mail.co.uk



SALES PERSON REQUIRED

- Olifu sell high quality educational products to nurseries, schools and other similar settings.
- The successful applicant will be required to demonstrate Olifu products to our customers.
- The work is challenging but with very good commission rates.
- Please email Tristan at tristan.olifu@gmail.com or call 0791 901 5943.

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WE NEED TEAM MEMBERS

to work in our wonderful new Tunbridge Wells shop!

We recruit, train and develop our people (75% of our Managers were promoted from Team Members). Our starting rate for Team Members is £7.25 or less (after 10 days, incl. bonus). Many get £9 or more and more. The average salary (incl. bonus) for General Managers is £12,000pa.

We want you. We have legendary parties.

Recruitment Open Day

**at The Royal Wells Hotel, 59 Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8BE**
Friday 2nd November 2012 from 10am – 4pm

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056



Public Sector

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Public Appointments

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WELLNESS COACHES

REQUIRED

We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home. Full training and support available.

01622 671716



Facilities Administrator

Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne, Kent.

£18,000 to £20,000 + Benefits depending on experience
37.5 hours/week

This post is for a highly organised individual to work closely with the Facilities Manager at Kent Science Park, specifically looking after the financial and technical computerised and paper records generated by the management and refurbishment of buildings, equipment and services on the site. In addition you will be liaising with and co-ordinating contractors, tenants and the site maintenance team to ensure work is completed on time and on budget.

You will be a proficient user of Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word and capable of quickly picking up other computer programs (training will be given). Regular communication with tenants is also a key part of the job so a confident manner when dealing with all levels of tenants and staff is essential.

In the first instance please contact:

Christine or Stephen on 01795 411 500

who will email you a detailed job description

All CV's and covering letters to be received by 26th October 2012

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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/12/00559/FUL: The Old Farm House, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NS Erection of new dwelling and erection of a new outbuilding to provide garaging and external storage in the garden of The Old Farmhouse. Applicant: Mr I Bower Smith Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01567/FUL: 68 The Hill, Littlebourne, CT3 1TB Loft conversion incorporating increase in ridge height of existing bungalow and insertion of dormer windows and rooflights to front and rear elevations to provide accommodation in the roofspace. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Hughes Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
 CA/12/02177/FUL: First Floor Flat, 2 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Replacement windows to front of dwelling. (Retrospective application). Applicant: Mrs C Knight Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/021762/FUL: Flat 4, 26 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Replacement of single-glazed timber windows with double-glazed upvc windows. Applicant: Mrs S McGonigle Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01777/FUL: Unit 15b, Graham Bell House, Roper Close, Canterbury, CT2 7EP Change of use from light industrial (Use Class B1) to church meeting room (Use Class D1). (Re-submission). Applicant: Pastor A Berko Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01778/FUL: 4 Victoria Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HZ First-floor rear extension. Applicant: Mr Page Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01789/FUL: Land at Highland Court Farm, Coldebarrow Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HW Use of land for the permanent stationing of 32 workers' caravans, erection of a communal amenities building and a general purpose agricultural building with associated servicing and landscaping works. Applicant: The Co-operative Group Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01819/LB: 5-6 Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TP Construction of a new inner entrance lobby. Applicant: Mrs Long Reason: Work to a listed building.
 CA/12/01820/FUL: Nethergong Nurseries, Nethergong Hill, Upstreet, Chislet, CT3 4DN Use of land to provide 30 touring pitches for tents from 1 April until 31 October. (Retrospective). Applicant: Nethergong Nurseries Ltd Reason: Major development.
 CA/12/01822/TAM: Land south of railway footbridge, Old Bridge Road, Whitstable. Installation of telecommunications equipment cabinet. Applicant: Openreach Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01825/FUL: Land adjacent to 10 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JB New dwelling on land adjacent to 10 The Street. Applicant: Ms C Wilcox Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01827/FUL: Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ Redevelopment of residential institution including partial demolition to create two detached dwellings with associated garages. Revised scheme to incorporate basement at 11 Marine Parade. Applicant: Mr Thurston Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01828/CAC: Cliff Dene, 11 Marine Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BQ Partial demolition of residential institution to facilitate redevelopment. Applicant: Mr Thurston Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01829/FUL: Walnut Tree Barn, 1A Walnut Tree Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HG Removal of log cabin, erection of single-storey extension linked to north-east corner of barn and the replacement of existing window in east elevation with French doors. Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Horner Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01831/FUL: Templeman Library, University of Kent, Giles Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7NU New 5350sqm extension with four storeys above ground and a basement level to west side of existing library. The extension includes a wide variety of reader spaces, collection space including a dedicated special collection and exhibition space, a 250 seat lecture theatre, a versatile teaching floor and a flexible space for innovation and experiment. New 100m² four-storey high entrance atrium to existing south east entrance, New 100m² single-storey entrance lobby to existing north west entrance. Replacement double glazing to existing single glazed windows and curtain walling at existing building facade. Applicant: University of Kent at Canterbury Reason: Major development.
 CA/12/01832/LB: Walnut Tree Barn, 1A Walnut Tree Lane, Westbere, CT2 0HG Removal of log cabin, erection of single-storey extension linked to north-east corner of barn and the replacement of existing window in east elevation with French doors. Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Horner Reason: Work to a listed building.
 CA/12/01834/LB: 34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG New shop front and alteration to roof of existing takeaway shop's extension to obtain sandwich/coffee bar space. Applicant: Mr Tekagac Reason: Work to a listed building.
 CA/12/01835/FUL: 34 St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BG New shop front and alteration to roof of existing takeaway shop's extension to obtain sandwich/coffee bar space. Applicant: Mr Tekagac Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01841/FUL: Land adjacent to 1 St Paul's Terrace and rear of 13/15 Church Street St Paul's, Canterbury Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/01340/FUL for the erection of two double garages and one single garage and re-positioning of barrier equipment in order to extend the time limit for implementation. Applicant: Lower Bridge St Investments Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01843/FUL: Gomez, Coldebarrow Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HL Extensions to existing distribution depot. Applicant: Gomez Distribution Ltd Reason: Major development.
 CA/12/01844/FUL: Brookside Lodge, Patrixbourne Road, Bridge, CT4 5BL Erection of single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. (Revised scheme). Applicant: Mr Cramer Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01845/FUL: 8 The Shrubbery, Barham, CT4 6NU Erection of a single-storey timber framed orangery to the rear elevation. Applicant: Mr E Young Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01848/CAC: 3 Link Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9ND Demolition of detached dwelling. (Re-submission). Applicant: Wilkinson Hughes Developments Limited Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
 CA/12/01849/FUL: 3 Link Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9ND Demolition of dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings and garages with associated alterations to the access and landscaping. (Re-submission). Applicant: Wilkinson Hughes Developments Limited Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01855/FUL: 187 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Two and single-storey extensions to side, including a double garage, single-storey extensions to front and rear, alterations and extensions to the roof to provide second-floor accommodation and other associated alterations. (Revised scheme). Applicant: Mr King and Mr Doig Reason: Conservation area.
 CA/12/01857/FUL: 68 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SB Change of use of the first, second and third floors to form three self-contained residential flats. Applicant: Mr Renchber Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before Monday 19 November 2012.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 26 October 2012

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 12 NOVEMBER 2012

SW/12/1203: Change of use of rear of Unit 1, 75 Britannia House to A5 takeaway - Unit 1, 75 Britannia House, High Street, SHEERNESS; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/1244: Variation of condition (1) of SW/11/0866 to extend the time period in which the portable office/restroom may be retained on site to a period of 36 months without the commencement of a B2 use - Four Gun Field, Otterham Quay Lane, UPCHURCH; REASON 3

SW/12/1245: Variation of condition (1) of SW/11/0867 to extend the time period in which the hardstanding, wheel spinner, CCTV cameras and stanchion may be retained on site to a period of 36 months without the commencement of a B2 use - Four Gun Field, Otterham Quay Lane, UPCHURCH; REASON 3

SW/12/1246: Demolition of single storey extension to house and garages. Construction of pitched roof single storey extension, timber framed garage and resisted entrance gates - Little Lodge, Church Hill, DODDINGTON; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/1280 & SW/12/1281: Conversion & extension of existing residential accommodation (North building) to create 3 bedroom dwelling, together with conservation & repair works to historic barn - Collkins Barn, Brenley Lane, BOUGHTON; REASON 2

SW/12/1293: Solid roof over existing conservatory, first floor bedroom extension with pitched roof over bedroom and landing - Springfields, Hogben's Hill, SELLING; REASON 1

SW/12/1303: Advertisement Consent for installation of 1 fascia sign; 1 projecting sign; 1 ATM sign; 2 wall mounted name/information signs - Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, 104 High Street, SHEERNESS; REASONS 1 & 2

SW/12/1326: Erection of timber climbing frame (retrospective) - Heights of Alma, 1 Alma Street, SHEERNESS; REASON 1

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
 Head of Planning



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0884/SH - 58 Sandgate Hill Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AX - Listed building consent for the replacement of 7 windows.

Y12/0940/SH+ - Fountain Stores The Green Saltwood Hythe Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0893/SH for the change of use from office (Class B1) & post office (Class A1) to residential (Class C3).

Y12/0939/SH# - Brookland Church of England Primary School High Street Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Felling of a Silver Birch situated within a conservation area, followed by the planting of a replacement tree.

Y12/0945/SH+ - 18 Cylinder Road Saltwood Hythe Kent CT21 4QG - Section 73 application for the variation of condition 2 of planning permission 94/0232/SH to allow conversion of garage to living accommodation together with external alterations incorporating the installation of a window in place of the existing garage door

Y12/0890/SH# - Playing Field rear Newchurch Village Hall Newchurch Lane Newchurch Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Willow (T2) and 50% reduction in height of a second Willow (T1).

Y12/0918/SH# - Sycamore Farm Millbank Lane Old Romney Kent TN29 9SY - Installation of solar farm comprising erection of solar arrays, inverters, transformers, equipment housing, security fencing, internal tracks & ancillary equipment.

Y12/0802/SH - Shakespeare Centre 145 - 147 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2DA - Change of use of part ground floor retail unit (Class A1) to provide a residential entrance way/foyer and part demolition of existing first floor structure and construction of first and second floor extensions to provide 12 residential apartments.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- # - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
- + - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
 Shepway District Council

To advertise in this section
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www.kentnews.co.uk

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02690/HOUSE Two Ways Church Close, Brenchley

- Construct a first floor to provide 3 bedrooms with 9 dormer windows. Increase in roof height by no more than 350mm. Replace concrete roof tiles with Kent peg tiles (LB) (CA)

12/02104/LBC Antiques @ Cranbrook 19 High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Listed building consent - Repairs to shop front (LB)

12/02263/CAC 1 Lyndhurst Cottages High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Conservation Area Consent: Removal of section of 2.5m high wall (CA)

12/02709/FUL Lower Ground Floor Office 2 Mount Ephraim Road, Culverden

- Change of use of lower ground floor from Class B1 (offices) to Class D1 (medical or health services) (CA)

12/02784/HOUSE Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst

- Construct pitched roof over existing garage, replacement of existing roof light with conservation roof light and brick garden wall (LB)

12/02785/LBC Tower Cottage Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst

- Listed Building Consent - Construct pitched roof over existing garage, replacement of existing roof light with conservation roof light and brick garden wall (LB)

12/02756/FUL Clarks 44 - 46 Calverley Road, Park

- New shopfront (CA)

12/02820/FUL Ganderley Camden Park, Park

- Demolition of existing 3 bed house and garage and erection of three storey, five bedroom dwelling and garage (CA)

(DEVPLN) Derivation from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)

Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
 Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
 Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 October 2012

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/SE/0298/2012 - Proposed development at Dunbrik Household Waste Recycling Centre, Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6EP.

Darent River Ballast Company is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for cessation of existing green waste composting facility and transfer station and development of a new transfer station with replacement household waste recycling centre and landscape improvements. The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND
UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0151/2012 - Proposed development at Land south of Rovenden Road, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4DN.

I give notice that further information has been received amending and amplifying application KCC/TW/0151/2012 submitted to the Kent County Council (as the County Planning Authority) for planning permission for the erection of new Primary School building with associated hardcourt play areas, access, parking and landscaping and re-profiling and landscaping of residual land to return to pasture. The further information includes:

- a. a reduction in the number of car parking spaces proposed within the new school car park by 22% (from 67 to 52) and an increase in landscape planting provisions;
- b. an amended proposed diversion route for footpath WC327; and
- c. additional supporting justification covering the applicant's site selection process.

The proposed development (as amended and amplified) does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated. The proposed development (as amended and amplified) is close to the Benenden Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. It may also affect the setting of nearby Listed Buildings. The proposed development (as amended and amplified) affects three public rights of way (WC325, WC326 and WC327).

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 28 October 2012



MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden

Applicant: Pierre Edmonds

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this publication. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Shepherd Neame Brewery, 17 Court Street, Faversham

Applicant: Graham Hukins

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this publication. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
Notice of the Confirmation of a Direction under Article 4(2)
to which Article 6 Applies

Notice is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction under article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which Article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the confirmed Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 1st May 2012 and came into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the date on which Notice was first published. The Direction was confirmed on 22nd October 2012 and remains in force in relation to the area specified in the 2nd Schedule to this Notice.

First Schedule

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

Schedule 2 Part 1 -

Class F

The provision within the curtilage of a dwelling house of a hard surface for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house as such, where the hard surface would front a relevant location.

Schedule 2 Part 2 -

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure, where the gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure would front a relevant location.

Second Schedule

Properties within the area of the St James North Special Identity Area, Royal Tunbridge Wells Conservation Area to which the Direction relates:

St James Church and 1 to 67 (odd numbers) St James Road
2 to 68 (even numbers) St James Road
60 to 70 (even numbers) Albion Road
19A and 21 Granville Road
1 to 65 (odd numbers) Beulah Road
2 to 60 (even numbers) Beulah Road
52A St James Park
1 to 9 Georgia Place and Church House Ferndale

Paul Cummins
Legal Services Manager
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent, TN1 1RS
22nd October 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1809/N - 41, ROYAL STAR ARCADE, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1JL - Change of use to a Health Centre (Class D1). **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1794/N - THE HERMITAGE, THE STREET, BOXLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DR - Ground floor extensions and other alterations. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1068/S - KENT COTTAGE, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9TD - Demolition of Kent Cottage and associated outbuildings and erection of two detached dwellings with integral garages and parking spaces. **Reason: 9**

MA/12/1822/N - 4, LITTLE ORCHARD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4FF - Extend existing single semi-detached garage to form double semi-detached garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1695/S - BRISHING COURT STABLES, BRISHING LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHelsea, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4NF - Conversion of stable within the curtilage of the listed building to an independent residential dwelling. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1756/S - THE HOBBIT, MARSHALLS PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SE - Erection of a single storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1771/S - STONE COTTAGE, WELL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EL - An application for listed building consent for replacement of second floor window. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1792/S - CHERRY MOUNT, MALTHOUSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BP - Erection of a single storey rear extension (Resubmission of MA/12/0796). **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1827/N - 36, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Erection of front porch. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1841/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA - Advertisement consent for the erection of 1 (no) internally illuminated 'gateaway' sign, 6 (no) internally illuminated totem signs, 2 (no) internally illuminated directional signs, 1 (no) 'hero' internally illuminated sign, 7 (no) non-illuminated information signs. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1842/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA - Advertisement consent for the erection of 7 (no) internally illuminated fascia signs. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1843/S - MOTORLINE RENAULT, 2, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RA - Demolition of existing car dealership and erection of two storey, free-standing restaurant with associated drive-thru, car parking and associated works. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Application affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **11th November 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 28th October 2012



To advertise in this section **01303 817056**

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Application for a variation of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

Cousins Snooker and Pool Club

Suite D, 19 Lower Bridge Street, Canterbury

Notice is hereby given that Mr Ali Gun, 236 Joyce Avenue, Edmonton, London, N18 2TS has applied to Canterbury City Council for a variation of the above premises licence to sell alcohol, and provide late night refreshment between: 11:00 and 02:00 hours Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
11:00 and 03:00 hours Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for the above premises.
The premises to close 30 minutes after the end of permitted hours.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by **15th November 2012**

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD
PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

Application for a Premises Licence - Licensing Act 2003

The Transport Yard

Brielle Way, Sheerness

Notice is hereby given that Deadline Deliveries Co. Ltd, 18 Heralds Way, South Woodham Ferries, Essex, has applied to Swale Borough Council for the grant of a premises licence to sell alcohol, show films, provide live & recorded music, and late night refreshment between the hours of 06:00 and 22:00 on any day and 06:00 and 02:00 on not more than 12 occasions per year at the above premises.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.swale.gov.uk/licensing> or at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by **23rd November 2012**

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD, PO BOX 499, ASHFORD, TN23 9QB

Licensing Act 2003

The Anchor Public House, High Street, Wingham
Notice is hereby given that Mr K. Abbott, of the Anchor Public House, Wingham, Canterbury has applied to Dover District Council for a premises licence for these premises. The effect of the application will be:

1. To remove all existing conditions and replace with conditions appropriate to the objectives
2. To vary the permitted hours for all licensable activities on any day subject to conditions
3. To include the rear first floor function room within the licensed area

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.dover.gov.uk/licensing> or at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover (01304 872295) by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

15th November 2012
AB Licensing Solutions Ltd

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

(LEACON LANE, WESTWELL LEACON, DISTRICT OF ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984 intends to make the above named Order:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Prohibition of Waiting) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines).

DISTRICT OF ASHFORD:

Leacon Lane: DYL, that length that extends from a point 13 metres northwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by to point 13 metres southeast of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by.

Leacon Lane: DYL, both sides, that length that extends to a point 5 metres southwest of its junction with the A20 Maidstone Road lay-by.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ and at the Kent Highway offices, Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 10th December 2012.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, EGERTON, ASHFORD) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from using;

Sandway, Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane, Glebelane, The Street, Stonebridge Green Road, Idon Lane, Field Mill Road, Southfield Lane, Barnfield Road, Hurst Lane, Newlands Road, Park Lane, Hunger Hatch Lane, Burnt Mill Road, Hazeldene Farm Road, Egerton Road from its junction with Field Mill Road to its junction with Vicarage Lane, Pivington Lane from Park Lane to a point 228m north of its junction with Egerton Road.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Graeme Lansell, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by not later than 18 November 2012.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 5 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to amend and introduce new speed limits as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, Betherston	From its junction with Gascoigne Road to a point 190 metres south of its junction with Bull Lane
Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with The Martins to its junction with Gascoigne Road
50mph	
Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 208 metres north-east of its junction with Little Robhurst to a point 125 metres north-east of its junction with Gascoigne Road

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 4 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a new 50mph speed limit as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, Great Chart with Singleton	From a point 92 metres south-west of its junction with Goldwell Lane to its junction with Betherston Road
Ashford Road, Betherston	From its junction with Betherston Road to a point 300 metres east of its junction with Kiln Lane

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 6 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to introduce a new 50mph speed limit as per the following Schedule:

Ashford Road, High Halden	From a point 45 metres south-west of its junction with Shawlands Lane to its junction with Biddenden Road
Ashford Road, Tenterden	From its junction with Biddenden Road to a point 256 metres north of its junction with Pope House Lane
Biddenden Road, High Halden	From its junction with Ashford Road to its junction with Oak Grove Lane
Biddenden Road, Tenterden	From its junction with Oak Grove Lane to a point 195 metres west of its junction with Bugglesden Road
Tenterden Road, Biddenden	From a point 195 metres west of its junction with Bugglesden Road to a point 210 metres east of its southern junction with Benenden Road

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 27) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 47 and 124 and of Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,

the effect of which would be to introduce new waiting restrictions in the following roads:

Faversham Road, Ashford
Broadhurst Drive, Ashford

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support or object to the proposal should write to Steve Darling, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk - quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 19 November 2012.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BURGATE LANE, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a mobile crane to replace air-conditioning units on adjacent buildings, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic and pedestrians on Burgate Lane, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 overnight from 11.45 pm through until 6.00 am, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Burgate.

There is no alternative route, as such. Local businesses and residents have been informed.

There will also be some restrictions for traffic and pedestrians into Burgate, at the junction with Burgate Lane.

HARDRES COURT ROAD, UPPER HARDRES (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of safety-related carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm each day.

The road will be closed from the junction with Bow Hill to a point approximately 20 metres south of the junction with Broxborough Hall.

The alternative route is via Hardres Court Road, B2068 Faussett Hill, Street End, Stone Street, Curtis Lane, Bosham Road, The Street and Hardres Court Road.

MILL LANE & SUMMER HILL, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing near the A2050 London Road Roundabout, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane & Summer Hill, Canterbury, on or after 14 November 2012 for up to 2 nights, as shown below.

MILL LANE will be closed at the junction with the A2050 at London Road Roundabout.

The alternative route is via Priory Road, Miller Avenue and Knight Avenue.

SUMMER HILL will be closed eastbound only at the junction with the A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The alternative route is via Church Hill, Chatham Hatch Road and A2050 Harbledown Bypass.

The planned closure times are between 8.00 pm through until 5.00 am.

A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new Zebra Crossing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A290 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days.

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 18 & 20, with no through access between Forty Acres Road and Ramsey Close.

The alternative route is via A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, Rough Common Road, Palmers Cross Hill, A2050 Harbledown Bypass and London Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

PRINCES AVENUE, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Princes Avenue, Dartford, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Princes Avenue.

The alternative route is via Princes Road, Gore Road, Lundale Road, Princes Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

MILL LANE, PRESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Preston, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length (i.e. between the junctions with Longmete Road and The Street).

The alternative route is via Longmete Road and The Street.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Somerset Road, Deal, on or after 15 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Telegraph Road.

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Hamilton Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road to Somerset Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

HALL ROAD NORTHFLEET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

Because of High friction resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall Road Northfleet on or after 3rd November 2012 for up to 9 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from

1) A226 Hall Road Southbound

2) A226 Hall Road Northbound.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A226 Hall Road Southbound and A226 Hall Road Northbound.

The alternative route is via .

1) Eastbound on the A2 on the slip continue along the A2 Watling Street to the Tollgate junction (A227) and return Londonbound on the A2 Watling Street to the Pepperhill junction then take the slip road to New Barn Roundabout.

2) Proceed on the Westbound A2 on the slip road and continue along the A2 Watling Street to Ebsfleet interchange B259 and return east on the A2 link road to join the northbound carriageway of Hall Road B262/ A226 at the Pepperhill junction.



HIGHWAYS**HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA**

**FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a low voltage cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Vicarage Lane for approximately 140 metres.

The alternative route is via Vicarage Lane, B2010 Lower Road, Dean Street.

**FRTTENDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to access the overhead network for BT cabling, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Frittenden Road, Staplehurst, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the High Street to Cradducks Lane.

The alternative route is via High Street, Headcorn Road, Cradducks Lane.

**B2010 HIGH STREET, YALDING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the bridge and carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2010 High Street, Yalding, on or after 31 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Bridge.

The alternative route is via B2162 Benover Road/Lees Road/Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road/Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge road, B2163 Teston Lane, B2010 Lower Road/Smith's Hill/Yalding Hill.

**SYMONDS LANE, YALDING AND BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of repairs to the bridge, parapet repairs and vegetation clearance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Symonds Lane, Yalding on or after 29 October 2012 and Busbridge Road, Loose, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Symonds Road will be closed at the bridge and Busbridge Road will be closed at the retaining wall just north of "Aberglaslyn".

The alternative route for Symonds Lane is via Lees Road, Benover Road and for Busbridge Road is via Stockett Lane, Bockingford Lane, Teasaurer Hill, Cripple Street, Loose Road, Rosemount Close, Old Loose Hill, High Banks.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

**CROCKENHILL LANE, EYNFSORD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT works to provide a new telegraph pole for customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Eynsford Road and Sparepenny Lane.

The alternative route is via: Sparepenny Lane, High Street, Dartford Road, London Road Swanley, Wested Lane Swanley.

**HIGH STREET, EDENBRIDGE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to install a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of High St, Mont St Aignan Way outside no 67.

The alternative route is via Mont St Aignan Way.

**LOCKSKINNERS, CHIDDINGSTONE, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lockskinners, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Mill Lane and Lockskinners Farm.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction with Mill Lane to Lockskinners Farm.

The alternative route is via Rywell Road, Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone Road.

**RIVERSIDE, EYNFSORD, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of highway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Riverside, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 12th November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with near ford in river and bridge.

The alternative route is via Sparepenny Lane, High Street or Main Road, Eynsford Road (A225) High Street (A225).

**STONEINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the installation of a drainage collection system to alleviate ongoing flooding of properties adjacent to Stoneings Lane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stoneings Lane, Knockholt, Sevenoaks, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property known as Stable Barn.

There will be no access for through traffic on Stoneings Lane.

The alternative route is via Stoneings Lane, The Nower, Main Road

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

**ELVINGTON LANE, HAWKINGE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Elvington Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Elvington Farm, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

There will be a one-day closure planned for 12 November for the water connection, between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm.

There will be a further half-day closure within the 5 days to permanently reinstate the road surface.

The alternative route is via Crete Road West and Gibralter Lane.

**A259 RHEE WALL, OLD ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A259 Rhee Wall, Old Romney, on or after 13 November 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 7.00 pm and 5.30 am the following morning.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Eighteen Acre Lane and Millbank Lane.

There will be no access between the A2070 and New Romney using the A259, during these closures.

The alternative route is via A259 Rhee Wall, Straight Lane, Brookland By-pass, Rye Road, Guldeford Lane, Folkestone Road, Camber Road, Lydd Road, Jury's Gap Road, Tourney Road, Robin Hood Lane, Harden Road, B2075 Romney Road and A259 Lydd Road.

HIGHWAYS**HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA**

**BANNISTER HILL, BORDER & CRYALLS LANE,
SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bannister Hill, Border & Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne, on or after 29 October 2012 as shown below.

BANNISTER HILL, BORDER will be closed from 29 October for up to 1 week.

The closure is to the north of the junction with The Rise.

The alternative route is via The Street, Pond Farm Road, Sutton Baron Road, Wrens Road, Heart's Delight and Banister Hill

CRYALLS LANE, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed from 5 November for up to 1 week.

The closure is in the vicinity of Cryalls Farm Cottage

The alternative route is via Wises Lane, A2 London Road, Adelaide Drive and Brisbane Avenue.

**NEWTON ROAD, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newton Road, Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, i.e. between the junctions with Station Road and East Street.

The alternative route is via B2041 Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road, Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane, Whitstable Road and East Street.

NORTON LANE, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of cabling works to provide a new phone connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Lane, Norton, near Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A2 London Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Lewson Street Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS,
THE BOROUGH OF SWALE (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH,
50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012**

NOTICE
**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND
DERESTRICTED ROADS)**

AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to : - Install a new 30mph limit on various roads in Eastling (The Street, Eastling Road, Newham Lane, Kettle Hill Road and Otterden Road) and modify the existing 40mph limit in Eastling. This Order was previously advertised as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Eastling) (Speed Limit) Order 2012."

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 01/11/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

For further information, please contact

Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,

on 08458 247 800 (local rate)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

**ALEXANDRA ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works requiring the use of a mobile crane, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Alexandra Road, Margate, on or after 14 November 2012 as shown below.

3 closures are planned, each between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The first is planned for 14 November 2012, with the proviso that it can be deferred to one of the following 2 days in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Provisional dates for the other 2 closures are 14 January 2013 and 25 February 2013. Again, these can each be postponed to one of the following 2 days in the event of bad weather.

The closures are in the vicinity of numbers 27-29.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound - via Helena Avenue, Beatrice Road and A254 Ramsgate Road.

Westbound - via A254 Ramsgate Road, B2052 College Road, Tivoli Road and Helena Avenue.

**BUCKINGHAM ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow access to phone cables in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Buckingham Road, Broadstairs, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights, between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with York Street.

The alternative route is via John Street, Victoria Parade and Chandos Square.

The One-way Traffic Order will be suspended to allow limited access up to where the road is closed.

**CHANDOS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chandos Road, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 3, with no through access between Chandos Square and York Street.

The alternative route is via Chandos Square, Victoria Parade, John Street and York Street.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Chandos Road, from Chandos Square up to the point of closure, to allow access.

**CHURCH STREET, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable access to phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Northdown Road and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Road, St Peter's Park Road, A255 The Broadway, St Peter's Road, Broadstairs Road and Vicarage Street.

**CLIFFSEND LEVEL CROSSING, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cliffsend Level Crossing, Ramsgate, as shown below.



HIGHWAYS

The planned closure times are from Saturday 17th November at 2.00 am through to Sunday 18th November at 7.00 pm.

Foads Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Cliffs End Road, Sandwich Road, Lord of the Manor Interchange, Canterbury Road West, and Foads Hill.

**MONKTON STREET, MONKTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Street, Monkton, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the east of the primary school, with no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via Monkton Street, Willets Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Tothill Street.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

**MILL LANE, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to replace a collapsed sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, and the One-Way Order on Mill Crescent Tonbridge is suspended on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Bordyke to Mill Crescent.

The alternative route is via Mill Crescent.

**MILL STREET, EAST MALLING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**
**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Street, East Mallings, on or after 3 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street/New Road and Clare Lane.

The alternative route is via Clare Lane, Winterfield Lane, Chapman Way and New Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

**A264 ASHURST ROAD, SPELDHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway resurfacing, installation of signs and lines, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A264 Ashurst Road, Speldhurst, on or after 12 November 2012 for up to 3 nights between 19.00hrs and 07.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Manor Court Farm to Stone Cross Farm.

The alternative route is via B2110 Groombridge Hill/Withyham Road/Castlefields, B2026 Edenbridge Road.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CLARMONT ROAD AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(ZEBRA CROSSING)
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the location of the proposed zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on 18th November 2012.

SCHEDULE

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	Clarendon Road, Tunbridge Wells at a point adjacent to 12 Clarendon Road.

**A268 HIGH STREET, HAWKHURST
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near A268 High Street, Hawkhurst, Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic as described below.

The Order will become effective on 12th November 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The date shown is an anticipated start date however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 14 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restrictions is stated below.

Schedule**Tunbridge Wells**

Road Name: A268 High Street Hawkhurst
Extent: A229 Highgate Hill/Cranbrook Road to Fairview
Date: 12th November to 14th November from 1900 - 0000hrs
Diversion: A229 Highgate Hill, Moor Hill, The Moor, Horns Road, Merriments Lane, A21 London Road, A268 Hawkhurst Road, and A268 High Street, Hawkhurst

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway Surfacing works to be undertaken by Kent County Council Highways

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 28th October 2012

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS****PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE****NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO****TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9****IN THE PARISH OF MAIDSTONE****PUBLIC FOOTPATH KB9****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KB9, between Sandy Lane and Sittingbourne Road from the 12th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 12th January 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Sittingbourne Road, Penenden Heath Road and Sandy Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: John Pelham Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19**

IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA**PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed part of Public Footpath ZS19 between NGR TQ 920 690 and NGR TQ 921 690 from the 15th October 2012. The section of path to be closed is approximately 600 metres south east of the Kingsferry Bridge.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 14 December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around site compound on the landward side of the seawall and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84**

IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS**RESTRICTED BYWAY ZSX84, SHEERNESS****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Restricted Byway ZSX84 between Th Fleet (NGR TQ 914 739) and the play area (NGR TQ 914 740) beneath the power cables from the 22nd October 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 5 November 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a path around the north, east and south of the play area and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**CYCLE TRACKS ACT 1984****WHITSTABLE - CONVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH CWX19 (PART)**

WHITSTABLE - CONVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH CWX24

CYCLE TRACKS ORDERS 2012

In connection with the conversions of public footpaths CWX19 (part) and CWX24 to Cycle Track, the Kent County Council confirmed the above Orders on 18th October 2012. No objections were received.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Orders are that the lengths of footpaths to which the Orders relates will become highways which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The footpaths designated as cycle track by these Orders are as follows:

CWX19 (Part) That width of that part of the public footpath from Reservoir Road to Cromwell Road for a distance of 87metres in a south westerly direction. A minimum of 2.7 metres width is recorded.

CWX 24 That path known locally as Lanes Walk from Tower Parade to Westgate Terrace for a distance of 85 metres in a southerly direction. A width of 3 metres is recorded

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the confirmed orders and the relevant maps can be inspected on Mondays to Fridays at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW or alternatively on Tuesdays and Fridays at Whitstable Library, 32-33 Oxford St, Whitstable CT5 1DB. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Orders came into force on 18th October 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Orders wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984, or on the ground that any requirement of regulations made under subsection 4 of the Act, has not been complied with in relation to the Orders, he or she may under Section 6 of the Act, within 6 weeks from the 28th October 2012, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service

Kent County Council

Invicta House

County Hall

Maidstone

Kent

ME14 1XX

Dated: 28th October 2012

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact

Kent Countryside Access Service,

on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)

or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



YOUR PUBLIC IS OUR PUBLIC

To place your legal notices
call 01303 817056 or email sallie.payne@archant.co.uk

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(T&C's below)

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH, of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398027

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398974

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car settle down with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc, looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803

SANDRA outgoing 53, career, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390320

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall, honest guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883

CLAUDIA curly size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611

LYNNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201

VIVACIOUS arty, caring female, 63, seeks intelligent, kind, caring, positive male with GSOH to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394651

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, curly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398139

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390657

ANNE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390657

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143

MARY 58, 5ft 1ins, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392468

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797

FAIRY looking for male for friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392658

WANNABEE stay at home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, lots's many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390717

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, eyes/in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 3930925

SANDRA outgoing 53, career, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375881

JULIE 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277

CLARE 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

BERYL retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386435

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386815

BLACK female, 33, single mom, living, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565

CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012

MARY fun loving, bubbly, seeking friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391438

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391438

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INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363619

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951

ANITA 58, 5ft 1ins, N/S, female, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745

PROFESSIONAL female, late 50's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332

FEMALE likes coast, shopping, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331

LADY 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, loves pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388419

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, happy disposition, seeks kind, honest, attractive female for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224

74YR old widower, honest, fits clubs, walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, happy disposition, seeks kind, honest, attractive female for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, clinger, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243

RICHARD 47, single, looking for happy LTR with female, 37-68, likes holidays, theatre, cooking, music, country walks etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398071

DENNIS retired, dark hair, brown eyes, fun to be with, seeking love and companionship with similar female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398017

HANDSOME MD 44, 6ft 3ins, slim, fair, good company, own car/boat/motorcycle, seeks slim, submissive female, 35-65 Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397945

ATTRACTIVE male, 47, medium build, dark hair, green eyes, GSOH, reliable, trustworthy, seeks attractive female/single mum, 25-47 with GSOH for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271

NICE guy 37 seeks female 48-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393107

54YR old male, seeks mature female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397477

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, moped, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301

30YR old male, genuine, passionate, respectful, seeking female for romance and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396407

INDEPENDENT

52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745

PROFESSIONAL female, late 50's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine man for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine man for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, female, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589

THANET male, smart, young mid 60's, caring, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396405

NIGEL 50, caring, honest, interesting, fit, seeks beautiful, sensitive woman inside and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395975

PHIL 63, fit, WLTM tallish woman to love and share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875

RICHARD 47, likes holidays, theatre, walks, meals out, cinema, keep fit, swimming, bowling, gardening, looking for happy LTR with female, 3



Three men
(try to) get
it together
for a classic

SEE PAGE 55



WARTIME WONDER

Patricia Routledge
on the pianist who
played for Britain

SEE PAGE 57

Kent Weekend



The spy who loved Kent

He's taken the world stage by storm again
but 007 is hop county through and through **SEE PAGE 51**

PLUS: What might just be the cosiest country pub ever - **food and drink p53** There are signs of life in the housing market - **property p61** Range Rover lightens up to reach new heights - **driving p63**



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THE INTERVIEW

WITH Daniel Craig's latest outing as James Bond now thrilling UK cinema audiences, author and historian Michael Paterson has taken an in-depth look at the world's most famous secret agent.

His book, *Amazing & Extraordinary Facts: James Bond*, has unearthed many intriguing details about the novels and films that feature 007 – the character created by Ian Fleming, who lived in St Margaret's Bay.

And there are some very Kentish connections to Bond.

"Fleming was a journalist by background," said Paterson. "He therefore had a certain ability to convey the essence of a place. He describes both Istanbul and Japan very effectively in his books, but he preferred to write about locations he knew and loved: France, the Alps, Jamaica, the USA – and Kent."

"He not only lived in the county but had his character grow up there and set an entire novel, *Moonraker*, near St Margaret's Bay."

"He was very patriotic and the Kent countryside is so typically English it's not surprising he developed great affection for it."

"It provided a number of things: the golf course at Sandwich, the Aylesford paper mill, the cliff-top setting for Sir Hugo Drax's rocket launch."

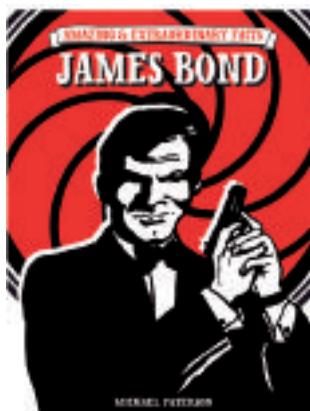
No other county features anything like as much in the Bond stories.

One favourite Kent Bond story is the inspiration for the agent's code number 007 – the same digits as a bus that runs from Dover to London.

"As far back as Elizabethan times, the 00 symbol – resembling a pair of eyes – on a document signified it was top secret. It meant 'For your eyes only'. A double-O prefix was used by the German intelligence service during World War One, and Fleming would have known this."

"His own service, British Naval Intelligence, sometimes used it, too. It was automatically associated in his mind with the highest secrecy."

"It will have struck him as ironic and amusing that, when driving



ALL THRILLS AND SPILLS: Daniel Craig reprises his role as James Bond 007 in the new film *Skyfall*, out this week, but, as Michael Paterson says in his new book, Bond's creator Ian Fleming used his Kent roots as inspiration for the fictional character

A lifelong Bond with Kent

A new book on Britain's most famous secret agent reveals his close ties to this county and how a bus route inspired that 007 code. **Nick Ames** investigates.

from London to Kent and back, he constantly passed on the road buses that bore this number.

"At some point it will have occurred to him it could work as an agent's code number. It was concise and memorable, and sounded mysterious.

"At the very least Fleming and his fans owe something to the bus company for having jogged his memory and providing inspiration."

Paterson says the movies are a constantly-evolving part of the character's whole mythology.

"The reinvention, or adaptation, of Bond over 50 years has been extremely successful – as we can see from box-office takings.

"Each time there is a new film, or a new actor, another generation of fans is created. The genre could not have survived if he had remained stuck in a time-warp. People want him to be contemporary and they go to see the films expecting to be dazzled by ever-more sophisticated stunts and gadgets.

"The films are certainly of their time

– who could forget Roger Moore's flared trousers, or those awful safari suits? Within a few years, not only the clothes but the hairstyles and cars and even the slang seem quaint, yet this does not matter because by that time they can be enjoyed for the nostalgia."

Paterson is keen to share the Bond lines he most enjoyed and also say who is his top man in the role.

"Among the most quoted phrases from the films is a certain throwaway remark of Goldfinger's, delivered by the affable Gert Frobe, who played him: 'Do you expect me to talk?' 'No, Mr Bond, I expect you to die'.

"I think, however, that undoubtedly the most famous line in the entire genre comes in Dr No when we first meet the character.

"The scene is the one in which he is asked his name at the roulette table and the camera pans upward, revealing his face as he says 'Bond. James Bond'. This is one of cinema's immortal moments. Sean Connery

was without doubt an actor of ability and screen presence. As the man who 'made' the role he is generally, according to polls, seen as the best.

"I would agree, but then he was the James Bond of my generation.

"My editor, a woman younger than I am, regards Moore as the archetypal Bond and all others as mere imitations. I believe Timothy Dalton, a fine classical actor, was miscast and Pierce Brosnan was credible and extremely good.

"But Daniel Craig is a welcome addition to the list because in an age of cinematic realism he shows just how brutal the world of espionage can be and how unpleasant are those who do this type of job.

"That leaves George Lazenby, traditionally seen as the worst.

"I feel this is unfair. He gave a very good performance in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, handling a testing range of emotions and situations with surprising ability for someone with no acting training

"There is no reason the genre should not continue for a further 50 years and I believe there will still be Bond films a century from now.

"They have long since moved beyond the original novels and taken on a life of their own."

But has he heard, on radio, the first person to ever play Bond – Bob 'Blockbusters' Holness, who attended what used to be Ashford Grammar School?

"Sadly not. I know Bond works well on radio, and Holness was one of four actors to depict him in this medium.

"That was in 1956, when the character was still faithful to Fleming's original – more dour, more humourless and less self-assured than he later became.

"But good for Norton Knatchbull School that they've produced a 007. Bond belongs to Kent, despite having Scottish-Swiss parentage.

"I'm glad someone associated with the county has played him."

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HALLOWEEN AND BONFIRE NIGHT

Festivities to enjoy on cold autumn nights

TWO big autumn celebrations take place over the next week or so – and both have their roots firmly in history!

Halloween (on Wednesday, October 31) is usually thought of as an American invention, but it is actually far older than that.

The name itself was first used in the 16th century and is a Scottish variant on the phrase All-Hallows'-Even, the day before the feast of All Hallows.

As befits its traditions of ghosts and witches, the day has pagan roots.

In Celtic times, cattle were brought in

for the winter, feasts laid on and bonfires lit.

It was also considered to be a time when the spirits of the dead were thought to be able to visit their former haunts. They were actually invited to the festival, with places laid at the table for them to join in the celebrations, far back in the mists of time.

The practice of wearing costumes may have come about as a way of disguising a person to protect them from evil visitors from the spirit world.

Current popular traditions include

trick-or-treating, bobbing for apples and telling spooky stories.

Halloween is becoming increasingly popular in the UK and has been a fixture on the US party calendar for years.

However, Guy Fawkes Night (on Monday, November 5) remains a uniquely British occasion.

It commemorates the Catholic Guy Fawkes's failed attempt to assassinate Protestant King James by blowing up The Houses of Parliament during the state opening in 1604.

He was discovered in the cellars be-

neath the buildings with a fuse and barrels of gunpowder and subsequently tried and executed.

The following November 5, Londoners were encouraged to light bonfires to celebrate the king's escape and the tradition grew, with fireworks becoming popular as well.

The idea of burning an effigy started a few years later; this was sometimes The Pope, or indeed Fawkes.

Now some bonfires have a contemporary unpopular figure on them to be burnt. Any ideas this year?



CELEBRATE! Both Halloween and Bonfire Night are popular family events for the autumn

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Cosy idyll in the country that one day I might never leave

If there's a place to go on a rainy Sunday afternoon when your head's a bit fuzzy from the night before and you need a little tender loving care, then Five Bells Inn in East Brabourne is it.

Nestled at the foot of the North Downs, this stunning inn boats old-world charm with a modern twist.

The warm, inviting interior, with its oak beams draped with hops, dozens of candles, vases of fresh flowers on big oak tables and a burning log fire, is so cosy that you run the risk of never wanting to leave.

And the menu – although a little difficult to read, perhaps because of its over-quirky design – promises fresh, local food, with a wine list boasting the best of Kent's own produce. You can even buy olives, home-made chutney and other delights on the menu to take home with you.

Despite the pub being quite busy and our not having booked a table, we were immediately invited to sit at a large oak table and handed menus to look over.

We ordered two glasses of the Chapel Down Flint white wine – made in Tenterden – some olives and bread with oil and balsamic vinegar.

Instead of ordering separate starters, we chose a selection: bruschetta with goat's cheese,

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Scotch hens' eggs and duck-leg croquettes with celeriac purée. Each one was delicious and clearly made with fresh ingredients.

With the smell of wood smoke in our nostrils and our bellies slightly full from our starters, we chose our mains.

I decided on the fish cakes, packed full with haddock, salmon and prawns from local fishmonger Griggs of Hythe, mixed with leeks and celery and topped with oven-roasted potato mash, served with a garden salad. My guest chose the saddle of lamb, which came with mashed potato and vegetables.

Other tempting offers on the menu were the Bells beefy burger with crispy bacon, hot blue cheese and red cabbage coleslaw, and the tagliatelle with Mediterranean vegetables, home-made basil pesto, toasted pine nuts and Parmesan.

The dessert menu boasted a selection of sweet treats and old favourites as well as ice-creams. There was also the Kentish cheeseboard, with a selection of the county's best cheeses.

We ordered coffee and sat for a while, taking in the quirky mix of adornments filling the pub, from a huge mermaid statue to a small wooden pig on our table.

Although the service was slightly slow, the staff were friendly and in no way made us feel in a rush to leave, even though we sat for a while after our meal.

With its fresh local produce, cosy atmosphere and delicious food, this family-friendly pub, apparently only recently refurbished, is an absolute find – so good that I'm almost loath to share it.

The total bill came to £75.

Marike Cox

■ **Five Bells Inn**
The Street
East Brabourne TN25 5LP

Wood-fired pizza team heads back to Margate

MARGATE'S seafront will house a new restaurant that you may well have heard of.

The Great British Pizza Company, which operated a pop-up unit on the harbour arm during the summer, now has a permanent roof over its head.

After its success with the alfresco method on the beach, the team has taken up a position where it can fully demonstrate its skills with a wood-fired oven bringing pizza to the classic British seaside.

With an award-winning chef and a former food critic at the helm, the GBPC could make for a warm eatery on the cold winter nights, but don't worry... the pop-up shop will return in summer.

Good Pub Guide hails The Three Chimneys

THE Three Chimneys in Biddenden has been named Kent Dining Pub Of The Year by The Good Pub Guide.

The guide, which highlights the best from each county, named the eatery in Hareplain Road as Kent's best overall because of its pub garden, cask ales, good food and snacks as well as its allowing four-legged friends into the bar.

It was described as having "pubby beamed rooms of considerable individuality, log fires, imaginative food and pretty garden".

The pub was also commended for serving Biddenden cider and apple juice.

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YOUR WEEKEND



Walking near the beaches The Stranglers

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Thursday, March 21, 2013
Tickets £24
www.atgtickets.com

IN 1977 The Stranglers released their extraordinary debut album *Rattus Norvegicus* and firmly established themselves as punk legends in the process.

During their career the group bagged 24 Top 40 singles across four decades, as well as 18 Top 40 albums, with hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, Always The Sun, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl and Skin Deep.

The Stranglers' first album for six years, *Giants*, was released in March 2012. It was critically acclaimed and saw the band complete another hugely successful UK tour, quickly followed by 23 dates in Europe and festival slots, proving they still have raw pulling power.

Time just flies with fun pair Andy and Mike

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thursday, November 1
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

FOLLOWING their smash hit show Andy and Mike's... Big Box of Bananas, the duo bring you another adventure – this time with a time machine.

Andy Day, star of Andy's

Wild Adventures (CBeebies) and BAFTA-nominated BBC presenter, stars alongside comedy partner Mike James.

Their trademark energetic routine and sense of fun promise to make the show a treat for the whole family.

When the attic at their 'fun pad' – locked many years ago by their great-grandfather – opens, they find a mysterious machine inside that helps them solve the mysteries of time.

The show is suitable for children aged three-plus. Tickets are priced at £11 for adults and £10 for children.



Afabeat by the seaside A mix of styles

Duke of Cumberland, Whitstable
Thursday, December 6
01227 280617

DECEMBER at Dukes in Whitstable sees critically-acclaimed New Yorker Joe Driscoll and West African star Sekou Kouyaté bring their mixture of hip-hop, rock, and reggae to the seaside town.

This interesting duo, who are on the verge of releasing their first album together, offer an eclectic mix of very different styles that has been called Afabeat.

To anyone who knows Driscoll's music, the familiar mix of rapping, folk and blues is recognisable yet very different, while Kouyaté, originally from Conakry Guinea, has been compared to Jimi Hendrix because of his unique style of playing with various effects and in a variety of genres.

See more details online at www.thedukeatwhitstable.co.uk.



A very British comedy Three Men In A Boat

Theatre Royal Margate
Saturday, November 3
01843 292795
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

KEEPING audiences laughing for more than a century, Jerome K Jerome's classic tale of boating misadventure has long been celebrated as a great example of English humour.

Brought to the stage in a new adaptation by award-winning Original Theatre Company, Three Men In A Boat treats audiences to a tale of friendship and mischief in a night to remember.

In an attempt to escape the stresses of city life, three friends, James, Harris and George, decide to take to the river to relax. The holiday, however, soon unravels and falls into chaos.

Tickets are priced at £14 for adults and £12 concessions.

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YOUR WEEKEND



Pumpkin patter Halloween history

Penshurst Place and Gardens

Saturday, October 27-Saturday, November 4
01892 870 866
www.penshurstplace.com

SEE the autumn colours at Penshurst Place and Gardens as the nights draw in and the moon lights up the historic building.

Half-term will be the perfect opportunity for the family to take a glance at the past and also enjoy the festivities of Halloween.

You can join the daily pumpkin trail, which has clues to help you find the fruit around the gardens. There will also be craft activities daily from midday to 4pm.

There is also the not-too-scary storytelling on Wednesday, October 31 – perfect for younger visitors. There are three showings, from 2pm to 3.30pm, followed by a fancy-dress competition at 4pm in the Tea Room.

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www.buckmore.co.uk

FOR fun that is fast and furious, you can't beat karting. Head to Chatham's award-winning Buckmore Park international outdoor kart circuit, where world champions

Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade.

There are October half-term Turn up'n'Drive sessions for youngsters aged four to 16 on selected dates.

For those aged four to seven, 15-minute sessions are available on 5mph electric karts, while those aged eight to 11 (and at least 4ft 2in tall) can experience the 20mph petrol karts and 12- to 16-year-olds can drive 40mph petrol karts.

Prices start at £15 per session. Try the popular Kids' Karting parties including laser tag games for ages four to 16.



Still alive and still kicking Simple Minds

Winter Gardens, Margate

Tuesday, April 16, 2013
01843 292795
www.leisureforce.co.uk

CLASSIC 80s pop-rockers Simple Minds will be bringing their tour to the Winter Gardens in Margate next year.

The Scottish group, who had huge success with hits like Alive And Kicking, Don't You (Forget About Me) and Belfast Child will play the seafront venue on Tuesday, April 16.

The group, who are heavily associated with the soundtrack of top 80s film The Breakfast Club, had No 1 hits in both the UK and the US and have sold more than 60 million albums.

The core of the band remains the same, with founding members Jim Kerr (vocals), Charlie Burchill (guitars) and drummer Mel Gaynor continuing to play songs that helped define the decade.

Tickets are on sale now priced at £37.50.



A funny freak Meet Frankie Halloween

The Forum, Sittingbourne

Wednesday, October 31
Free to enter
Open 11am to 4pm

THERE will be a real Halloween horror at The Forum during half-term week.

On Wednesday, Frankie and his coffin will be creeping around the shopping centre

with his hilarious and ghostly performances.

Throughout the day, children and adults alike are invited to have their photo taken with the fantastic walkabout illusion – a fantastic opportunity for all the family to start their Halloween celebrations in frightful style.

Shopping centre manager Colin Bell said: "The Frankie Halloween show is guaranteed to add to a great atmosphere in the centre while getting shoppers' spirits up for a night of trick-or-treating and Halloween parties."

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YOUR WEEKEND

Patricia keeps up appearances telling story of wartime pianist

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

TO hear "The Bucket residence, the lady of the house speaking" in the 90s was to know that you were viewing one of Britain's most popular sitcoms.

Keeping Up Appearances aired for five series, with enthusiastic socialite Hyacinth Bucket, sorry Bouquet, at the head of the show.

The star was played by Patricia Routledge, also known for her role as the BBC's Hetty Wainthropp, and she now heads to Kent as part of a new show called Admission: One Shilling.

It features the true story of Myra Hess, a concert pianist who performed to British audiences during the Second World War.

Routledge tells the story using letters, broadcasts and conversations the performer had during her active years.

The 83-year-old said: "Myra Hess had a great reputation in the UK, America and Europe. When war broke out in 1939, the Government closed down all theatres, cinemas, galleries, any places that there could be a concentrated mass of people in the event of a bomb attack.

"So there was no entertainment of any kind and Myra Hess thought this

was not tolerable and that the people needed something. From her point of view, they needed music.

"She approached the director of The National Gallery in London to set up a series of lunchtime concerts to be available to anyone who wanted to come in their lunch-hour.

"At the beginning she thought 40 or 50 people would turn up, but the response was in its thousands for the first concert. The concerts went on for six-and-a-half years. They were very popular and so was she."

Routledge was fortunate enough to see Hess play in Liverpool during the war, an incident that eventually led to her role in the show.

"It made the most enormous impression on me. I don't think I would be doing this show if I hadn't witnessed her great gift. The force of her personality I will never forget."

The show, which heads to the Stag theatre in Sevenoaks next week, has been compiled by her great-nephew composer Nigel Hess and features the music of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Schumann and Chopin played

by international concert pianist Piers Lane.

The hour-long musical and theatre showcase is touring the UK this winter, but all the travelling is not something that bothers Patricia.

"I enjoy what I do. It doesn't matter where it is – I would go to the Pitcairn Islands if I enjoyed what I was doing. Yes, there is a certain discomfort, but if you enjoy what you're doing then that pales into insignificance."

The actress is still best remembered as Hyacinth Bucket, however you pronounce it, and, with the 42 episodes continuing to air on British TV and around the globe, why wouldn't she be?

But don't be about to think that a comeback is on the cards.



TRUE STORY: Patricia Routledge is to perform the story of pianist Myra Hess

"We have all gone our different ways, and of course, sadly, Geoffrey Hughes [Onslow] died recently," she said.

"We did five series in total and it is shown all over the world still. Yes, there were calls to bring it back, but I thought it had travelled its course, really. It was a very enjoyable period of time.

"I think it's nice to hear people ask 'Is there going to be some more?' rather than 'Oh, is that still on?'"

■ **Admission: One Shilling plays at the Stag theatre in Sevenoaks on Saturday, November 3, at 8pm. Tickets cost £23-£25; visit www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk or phone the box office on 01732 450175.**

Gallery lifts Thanet arts yet further

SATIS House in Ramsgate is the setting for Kent's latest prestigious art gallery.

Updown Gallery, owned by curator and director Kate Smith, will host exhibitions featuring the best modern and contemporary British, European and US artists.

Smith returns to Kent after more than a decade in London and New York galleries working at the forefront of the international art scene.

She said: "Since the opening of Turner Contemporary in Margate last year, Thanet's art scene has flourished, and we are really excited about adding a different dimension to it.

"The flexibility offered by a privately-run gallery means we will change exhibitions more frequently, keeping the freshness and vibrancy of many London galleries.



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CHRISTMAS DINING

It's closer than you think, you know, so don't miss the festive feasts



Why here...

The Drum Inn is a 300-year-old building with a fascinating history of military memoirs and smuggler stories that are still told to this day in the pub placed at the heart of Kent. Many of its original features, including two working fireplaces, give the venue an inviting and relaxing atmosphere.

The team at the Ashford pub serves award-winning guest ales that are changed regularly, as well as traditional, freshly-cooked pub food seven days a week. Look out for the steak-night deals offering a steak meal and large glass of wine for just £14.95.

On Friday, November 2, The

Party to the beat of the drum during the holiday season

Drum Inn hosts a Guy Fawkes night with traditional bonfire and fireworks. Enjoy real ales and mulled cider with a hog roast – tickets are priced at £5. Pre-purchase family tickets (two adults, two children) for £14, or purchase on the night for £18. At Christmas time, the menu will offer a range of traditional Christmas fare, as well as classic roasts and alternative options including vegetarian meals. The Christmas menu is on the pub's website.

On the menu...

The Drum Inn's day-to-day menu offers traditional food like beer Brie fritters, breaded whitebait, battered cod, 10oz rump steak, home-made steak-and-ale pie, the BBQ chicken melt, seabass or traditional bangers and mash. Prices range from £8.96 to £14 for a main course.

How to book...

The Drum Inn, Stone Street, Stanford North, Ashford TN25 6DN (phone 01303 812125, web www.thedruminn.com)

Why here...

The Black Horse is nestled in the delightful village of Monks Horton. This traditional oak-beamed pub and restaurant offers a taste of Kent at its very best. With ample parking and a roaring open fire in the cold winter months, this is a perfect venue for any occasion, whether it be a family meal or a Christmas party. The pub complements its surroundings perfectly, a picture-postcard property that is the epitome of what a country pub should be. It has an extensive beer garden to the rear, which looks out onto the countryside, with an enclosed children's play area – an ideal spot for both customers and

Take winter at a canter and relax at The Black Horse

their children.

Savour the freshly-prepared dishes with an Italian twist. Light lunches start from £3.50, while the Wednesday lunch club offers two courses for £7.50. Or treat yourself to a Sunday roast, carved especially for you at £8.95. The team also offers personalised catering for all events.

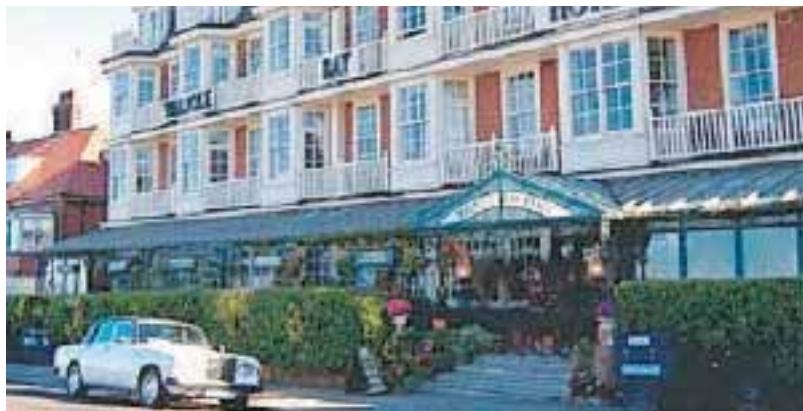
For more details about the Christmas party menu and details, phone 01303 812182 or email the pub at info@theblackhorse.uk.com.

On the menu...

Examples: tiger prawns sautéed with garlic and chilli butter, or chargrilled chorizo with mixed leaves, mint and cucumber dip, or seared scallops with bacon, mango chutney and salad. Seafood crumble (haddock, prawns and cod) in a thyme-and-garlic sauce.

How to book...

The Black Horse, Fiddling Lane, Monks Horton, near Ashford TN25 6AP (web www.theblackhorse.uk.com)



Why here...

From the moment you enter the Walpole Bay Hotel and Museum, you step back in time to the ambience of a bygone era.

This historic Margate hotel was built in 1914, extended in 1927 and is now being lovingly restored to its former glory. The Walpole is a family-run hotel that offers a home-from-home atmosphere combined with a warmth and timeless elegance.

From the relaxing flower-decked terrace with sea views to the Edwardian-style restaurant, you will rediscover a passion for the finer things in life. And to make your visit complete, enjoy a ride in the 1927 Otis

Party time and Christmas fun at the Walpole Bay Hotel

trellis gated lift that services every floor.

The hotel has also had numerous TV appearances – see if you recognise it! Traditional four-course Christmas luncheons, evening dinners and Christmas parties will be offered from mid-November.

Lunches will include luxury crackers and decorated tables. Party nights will include a disco from 9pm to midnight in the ballroom, luxury crackers and decorated tables.

On the menu...

Pre-Christmas luncheons at £24.50 per person. Pre-Christmas evening dinners for £28.50 per person.

Christmas party nights are priced at £28.50 per person. Christmas Day is fully booked due to popular demand, but book your meal or party now in the run-up!

How to book...

Walpole Living Museum, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville CT9 2JJ (phone 01843 221703, web www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk).

Why here...

On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image. Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night. And why not? With the traditional log fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone.

There is a safe children's play area in the garden and a sunny front patio, making the pub a desirable location for families, parties and a romantic dinner.

There is a top selection of

Home-cooked festive flavours at the picturesque Red Lion

real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu.

The specials change with the seasons and the team has recently launched its Taste of Kent menu in the refurbished restaurant, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within a couple of miles of the pub. Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm.

On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm. Christmas-party-booking is now available.

On the menu...

Example: Smoked duck and orange salad; bronze turkey served with potatoes roasted in dripping or tender pork belly stuffed with the Red Lion stuffing topped with a cider-and-grated-apple sauce and roast potatoes; Christmas pudding covered with brandy butter.

How to book...

The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)



by being late in booking your Christmas meal. Enjoy our selection of superb venues and then make your choice!



Why here...

Set deep in the Kent countryside, the boutique hotel and restaurant of Elvey Farm makes a statement... you instantly realise that this is somewhere special. Tucked away on a medieval farmstead, Elvey is made up of a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn overlooking sunny hills in the summer months, but it really comes into its own during the winter – and especially on the run-up to Christmas. The log fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the

Eat, drink, be merry and stay over at beautiful Elvey Farm

kitchen are too tempting for words.

The team prides itself on attention to detail and this restaurant in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country will have you reminiscing of those oh so classic holiday seasons with their hot, wholesome food and stylish decorations.

The majority of ingredients used in Elvey's original dishes are sourced locally, home-made from scratch and hearty. Why not stay and make a night of it?

On the menu...

Elvey Farm is the perfect place to host a Christmas party. Lunches are just £15 for three courses, and the evening party menu is £28. Rooms for £85 in December. Open for lunch from Wednesday to Sunday and every evening. To see the full menus, visit the website.

How to book...

Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU (phone 01233 840442, website www.elveyfarm.co.uk)

Why here...

The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are always welcome and in fact in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini family farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig.

Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving

It's going to be a real cracker with delicious Waggon menu

On the menu...

Choose a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or prawn-and-crabfish salad.

For mains, there is traditional roast turkey, roast topside of Scottish beef, mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or stuffed red peppers.

How to book...

The Waggon, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, web www.waggonathale.co.uk)



Why here...

World's Wonder Restaurant – where meals are to dine for! At the Wonder the team only provides home-made meals. From starters to desserts, every dish is created from local free-range meats and seasonal produce, made 'like Mum makes'. Packet food is definitely out – come and taste the difference at the Warehorne eatery! The home-made, oven-cooked, thick-filled, short-crust-pastry pies made in the pub kitchen are renowned for their taste – while the soups, mains and desserts got World's Wonder voted top gastro pub in the county's restaurant awards. Just an example of the

Wonder at the homely kitchen at the Warehorne eatery

Christmas menu includes a home-made carrot-and-coriander soup or smoked salmon and prawns with horseradish and lime dressing. Main courses offer fresh roast turkey, sausages wrapped in bacon and stuffing or succulent roast topside of beef served with home-made horseradish sauce or plaiice fillet stuffed with prawns served with orange and cranberry sauce, all served with seasonal vegetables and Yorkshire puddings unless stated otherwise.

On the menu...

Desserts include home-made Christmas pudding with a brandy sauce or white-chocolate cheesecake and many others. Tea or coffee and home-made mince pies, crackers and poppers are all included. Vegetarian options available. £19.95 per person.

How to book...

World's Wonder, Warehorne TN26 2LU (phone 01233 732431, web www.worldswonder.co.uk, email info@worldswonder.co.uk)

Why here...

The Sondes Arms at Selling near Faversham is a classic country pub deep in the heart of Kent, just a stone's throw from lovely Perry Wood.

Get in the Christmas spirit with a warm, welcoming bar, log fires and a delicious Christmas menu to suit anyone's tastes.

Serving the village for more than a century, the eatery boasts cask real ales, a nice garden area, separate restaurant and bar with plenty of parking for travelling guests.

The team at The Sondes will be hosting Christmas parties from Saturday, December 1, until Christmas Eve, but don't worry – you can take the

Bringing in the new year in style at The Sondes Arms

On the menu...

The pre-Christmas menu from December 1-24 includes four stunning courses, a mince pie and coffee for £14.95 per person.

The Christmas Day menu offers a spectacular seven courses, a mince pie and coffee for £54 per person. Book now to be sure of a place!

How to book...

The Sondes Arms, Selling (phone 01227 752517, email info@thesondesarms.co.uk, web www.thesondesarms.co.uk)



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Surge in prices is 'evidence of life in the market'

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

HOUSE-SELLERS upped their asking prices by more than £8,000 in October, the biggest rise in eight months, according to property website Rightmove.

The typical property asking price rose by 3.5 per cent month on month to £243,168, with the South East performing slightly above the UK average as it saw a 3.9 per cent increase.

The website said that the figures were "evidence of some life in the market".

However, it suggested the upturn was most likely to be due to a lack of properties for sale, meaning would-be buyers had less choice.

Prices are 1.5 per cent higher than a year ago, going a long way towards reversing the £11,000 drop in prices between June and September that the market saw as events like the European Championships and Olympics dominated.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) said mortgage-lending to home-buyers hit a two-year high in August. However, it added that it was too early to say what long-term effect recently-

launched Government schemes to kick-start lending were having.

Mortgage availability has been increasing since an £80 billion funding for lending scheme was launched at the start of August, although much of this has been concentrated on people with larger deposits of at least 20 per cent.

Lenders have also toughened their borrowing criteria in recent months and Rightmove said estate agents were still reporting that mortgages were no easier to obtain.

Miles Shipside, director of Rightmove, said an increase in asking prices was "most likely attributable to the continued shortage of new property supply".

He said: "Sellers need to be mindful that the window of opportunity to sell before the traditional winter slowdown is a narrow one, and they risk being left out in the cold for months until the spring market thaw."

"In addition, estate agents are reporting that mortgages are still no easier to obtain, with risk-averse lenders nit-picking every detail of the mortgage application paperwork, even from buyers who seem squeaky clean."



ON THE MOVE: Despite asking prices increasing by £8,000, June to September saw a fall of £11,000

Financial incentive offered in council scheme for tenants willing to downsize

DARTFORD'S council tenants who do not utilise all the space in their homes are being encouraged to downsize to make room for families who need more space.

The Downsize for Cash scheme offers a financial reward to secure

tenants who are under-occupying their homes and helps them to move to a smaller property, freeing up larger properties for families in need.

If the tenant is eligible to take part in the scheme, they will receive £500 for each bedroom and parlour released,

plus £100 to help with moving costs.

Additional funding may be available for removal and packing expenses, too. For example, a couple moving from a three-bedroom house to a one-bedroom place would receive £1,100.

In addition, the borough council will do its best to move the tenant to an area of Dartford of their choice.

Pat Coleman, portfolio holder for housing, said: "The council aims to assist as many people as possible in finding suitable housing for themselves

and their families. To do this, we need our existing tenants' help in making under-occupied larger properties available to families in housing need."

"The Downsize for Cash scheme makes the move rewarding for all involved."

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Vauxhall unveils its Cascada convertible
- Best of both worlds from VW's new BlueGT
- Skoda's Yeti takes top spot at Which? awards



Wagons roll as Chevrolet makes the Cruze a load more inviting

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ORDER books are open for the latest and fourth-generation Range Rover – the most luxurious yet.

But it didn't start out like that. When the original arrived in 1970, it was more comfortable than its Land Rover sister – still soldiering on as the venerable Defender – but the interior was designed to be hosed out and to carry occasional ewes and lambs or straw bales.

And it wasn't offered with four doors until 1981, probably the point at which it started to be seen as a luxury car in the making, as a go-anywhere people-lugger for country estates and then, increasingly, as a car to grace both Chelsea and the Cotswolds.

Now it is Land Rover's luxury flagship, heading a sub-brand including the Range Rover Sport and much-in-demand Evoque compact SUV.

The new Range Rover (from £71,295) is lighter, stronger and more refined, largely due to the world's first lightweight all-aluminium monocoque SUV body, which saves a hefty 420 kilos over the previous car, with consequent benefits to fuel economy and CO₂ emissions.

The first cars arrive with customers in January 2013, but Land Rover will follow up later in the year with a diesel-hybrid version expected to emit 169g/km of CO₂ – that's on a par with many family hatchbacks.

Land Rover, which once had production halted briefly by Greenpeace activists, is obviously sensitive to the drive for eco-friendliness; the new Evoque range includes the Pure front-wheel-drive eco-model, and the latest Range Rover is being produced in a new low-energy manufacturing facility at the Solihull plant.

But there is also still a lot of 'Britishness' about the car that has helped power the revival of the Jaguar Land Rover group globally.

Land Rover global brand director John Edwards said of the latest model: "The Range Rover is our flagship and a true British success story, designed, engineered and built in Britain.

"Its distinctive design, breadth of capability and class-leading refinement and comfort have always made it unique.

"When we asked our customers what they wanted us to change, they told us 'Don't change it, just make it better'. We set out to create not just the world's finest luxury SUV, but the world's finest luxury vehicle."

Despite all the talk about luxury, the car has not lost sight of its original USP as a comfortable go-anywhere car; Land Rover says the new aluminium structure body and latest chassis technologies have taken the vehicle "to another level, both in the breadth and accessibility of its off-road capability and its on-road handling and refinement."

As such, it also becomes the halo model for the rest of the Land Rover range, also including the multiple-award-winning Land Rover Discovery and its smaller sister, the Freelander.



RANGE ROVER

Price:
from £71,295

Driving appeal:
Not yet driven

Image:

Space:

Value:

Running costs:

Reliability:

How green?:

Best rival:
Mercedes M-Class

Lighter Range Rover continues to make luxurious new heights



CLASS ACT:
Range Rover has made its fourth-generation model lighter, stronger and more refined, making a big difference to fuel economy and CO₂ emissions while keeping the car's distinctive design and comfort

DON'T LIKE

... the price, but then exclusivity is part of the deal with the Range Rover, which has morphed from farmer's utility runabout to executive 4x4 limo.

NOT SURE

... anyone is yet convinced a Range Rover can be green, but the aluminium body and forthcoming diesel-hybrid will certainly aid its eco PR.

REALLY LIKE

... how the car's design has evolved in style and technology without really changing both its character and ability to conquer terrain in comfort.

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Model shown is a Cruze Station Wagon 1.7 VCDI LTZ priced at £19,785 OTR. Finance example shown is over 60 monthly payments with a deposit of £5,445. Vehicle shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £445. Min 10% deposit, 24–60 month term. Participating Dealers. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Santander Consumer (UK) plc RHI15R. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Price correct at time of print. *T&Cs available at www.perrys.co.uk/dover-chevrolet

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Cruze Station Wagon range: Urban: 27.1 (10.4) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban: 50.4 (5.6) – 70.6 (4.0), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 62.7 (4.5). CO₂ emissions 170 – 119g / km.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Freelander 2 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 (8.7) – 39.8 (7.1) Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8) – 52.3 (5.4) Combined 40.4 (7.0) – 47.1 (6.0) CO₂ Emissions: 185 – 158 g/km.

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Cascada open to the world

AFTER teasing glimpses, Vauxhall has finally taken the wraps off its Cascada four-seat convertible that is set to arrive in early 2013.

Based on the existing Astra and Insignia, with styling cues from both, it is expected to cost about £25,000, undercutting premium rivals.

It's yet another elegant offering from a brand at the top of its game under British design guru Mark Adams.



Budget power from BlueGT

VOLKSWAGEN claims it has the answer for customers wanting petrol performance and diesel miserliness – the Polo BlueGT (from £17,400).

The new car uses cylinder deactivation in its turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol engine. It can do 0-62mph in 7.9 seconds, but two cylinders can shut down automatically under lighter loadings, allowing 61.4mpg on the combined cycle and CO₂ emissions of just 107g/km.



Yeti is number one for Which?

CONSUMER watchdog Which? says the Skoda Yeti is the most reliable car in the UK.

In a survey completed by

owners of 47,000 vehicles, the petrol-powered model ranked number one in the SUV/4x4 classes with a 98 per cent reliability score.

As the highest total of any class winner, it was also declared overall champion.

The Yeti diesel model came in at sixth place.

Honda Jazz gets more pizzazz

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THOUGH it's called the Jazz, Honda has waited an age to give us a variation on the theme.

In the meantime, this supermini-cum-MPV played the same old tune, proclaiming its versatility, reliability and general niceness; not very jazzy but a theme appealing to an older, easy-listening fanbase.

But now we have the sporty new Jazz Si (£14,550) going some way to widening the audience for this admirable little car.

Before anyone gets up and starts be-bopping, though, Honda insists it is only a limited edition, albeit one it is keen to promote with a zero per cent private lease deal (PCP) of £149 per month with a 27 per cent deposit.

What you get is sharp colours – black, red, white and bright blue – plus bespoke spoilers front and back, side skirts, privacy glass and eye-catching 16-inch two-tone alloys.

Visually, it's a bit of a revelation.

I drew the short straw with a white test car, though; the Si looks best in black or red, while yellow would have been a good option – it's great on standard Jazz models (from £11,605).

Attempts to 'jazz' the interior are less effective; the leather-trimmed steering wheel is welcome and cruise control is thrown in, but it lacks something and the bespoke black and silver seats look a bit tacky even if they are comfy and supportive.

It's not all cosmetics, though; the Si suspension has been beefed up to deliver improved straight-line stability and body control, while the electric power-steering has been tweaked for improved feel and response.

The standard Jazz is a driver pleaser anyway, but these changes do sharpen it up without affecting a decent ride and long-distance refinement.

However, the Si doesn't quite walk the talk on the power front; this Jazz is a variation on the existing 1.4ES model (£13,750), which has a 98bhp petrol engine and five-speed gearbox.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4Si: PRICE £14,550



FACT FILE

Driving appeal: ★★★★

Image: ★★★★

Space: ★★★★

Value: ★★★★

Running costs: ★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★

How green?: ★★★★

Road tax: £95 (zero/year one)

Best rival: Skoda Fabia

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SHIFTING UP A GEAR:

Honda's new limited-edition Jazz Si comes in four colours – black, red, white and blue – plus bespoke spoilers, side skirts, 16-inch two-tone alloy wheels and privacy glass, although changes to the interior are less effective

It's good enough for 0-62mph in 11.5 seconds, but that's not quite the pizzazz required for a sporting Jazz, while a six-speed gearbox would offer more relaxation at the top end when motorway cruising.

But perhaps the Si really is a limited edition, a toe in the water by Honda before diving in with something more overtly sporty.

Most would-be Si buyers will be happy it looks the part anyway yet retains all the things they love about the Jazz and translated into a string of awards, most recently the JD Power customer satisfaction and reliability survey's supermini of the year and Which? best used supermini.

Made in Britain stamp, courtesy of manufacture at the brand's Swindon plant, adds to its appeal, but the car's ace is Tardis-like capacity within relatively compact dimensions, plus clever packaging.

The rear seats fold flat for quick transformation into a van, but the bases also hinge and lock upwards, allowing extra stowage beneath or side loading of a bicycle, for instance – though you need to whip the front wheel off first. The car seats five comfortably – rear legroom is excellent – and slightly higher than a standard supermini, giving good visibility out of a glassy cabin.

Even with the 1.4-litre engine of the Si, you can also average some 50mpg.

You could get more from a diesel, but these take the fun out of small cars and cost more upfront anyway so you need to cover great mileages to recoup the consumption benefits.

Honda doesn't offer a diesel anyway, preferring a petrol-electric hybrid Jazz option, costing from £16,300 and averaging about 10mpg more than the 1.4-litre unit on the Si while being only slightly faster in acceleration.

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*Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line, New Astra Hatchback/Sports Tourer BiTurbo, Ampera and VXR8 models. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes Mokka and Corsa SXi models. †Term can be from 24-60 months. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Flexible Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH115R or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. ‡Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

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Chevy's Cruze is now fully up to speed

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AMERICAN car giant General Motors treads a fine line in marketing the recently-arrived Chevrolet value brand alongside its long-established Vauxhall sister.

There have been awkward moments, such as Chevy's Captiva looking too much of a bargain against the closely-related Vauxhall Antara.

But Chevy also took a hit in 2009, when it launched its mid-range Cruze model as a saloon; the UK market is a graveyard for small sedans, but it probably helped ensure the then-new-generation Vauxhall Astra hatchback didn't get a hard time from a cheaper Cruze equivalent.

That situation has been rectified, though, with a Cruze hatchback arriving last year, now complemented by the new Cruze Station Wagon, priced from £15,375. Despite its racy looks, this is a practical load-lugger offering 500 litres of boot space or 1,478 litres with rear seats flat to the floor – some of the best stats in its class.

Typically from Chevy, the new wagon also comes laden with kit and the marque's standard five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Three trim levels are offered – LS, LT and LTZ Nav – with standard equipment including air-con, electrically-heated and adjustable door mirrors, front electric windows with 'express down' facility, roof rails, rear and boot 12v power sockets, cargo-restraint

hooks, remote central door-locking and electronic boot release. You will need to trade up to LT (from £16,475) to get alloy wheels, though.

Engine choice is from two petrols – 1.6 and 1.8-litre – and a 1.7-litre diesel.

Chevrolet has also confirmed its new Trax compact SUV will be arriving soon. It was the brand's biggest news at the recent Paris Motor Show and upholds a proud history of Chevrolet SUVs – Chevy claims to have invented the type more than 75 years ago with the Suburban Carryall.

But the chunky Trax is a thoroughly modern take and will be offered with a choice of turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol, normally-aspirated 1.6-litre petrol and 1.7-litre turbodiesel – 4x4 will be available on the two turbo units. Chevy says the car will be both practical and good to drive, and we can expect aggressive pricing.

■ DOVER-based Chevrolet dealer Perrys is offering free 12-month membership to the exclusive Tastecard dining club for customers who take a test drive before Monday, December 31.

Tastecard is the UK's largest diners' club, offering members 50 per cent off their total food bill or 2-for-1 offers at more than 5,500 UK restaurants. But Chevrolet's autumn menu also includes zero per cent finance over five years across the whole range until the end of the year.

This means the Spark 1.2 LT five-door city car, for example, is available for 60 monthly payments of just £149 with a £1,755 deposit.



ROLLING ON: Chevrolet's new Cruze Station Wagon will soon be joined an all-new SUV the Trax, left

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault Clio 1.2 16V 3dr are: Urban 37.2 (7.6); Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9); Combined 48.7 (5.8). The official CO₂ emission figure is 135g/km.
*Discounted price includes authorised Renault UK Support and is in lieu of Le Style Pack. **4+ package is included as standard on eligible vehicles. The value of the package (with the exception of Satnav) is based on £300 for 4th year roadside assistance cover and between £305 and £720 for 4th year warranty cover, depending on the Renault model. Servicing also varies between £580 to £1,214 depending on vehicle and servicing in line with manufacturer's minimum maintenance programme based on an average national hourly labour rate of £70. Figures for illustration purposes only. No cash alternative. Vehicles are covered by a warranty package for up to 48 months. The first 2 years are unlimited mileage, followed by a further 2 years up to 100,000 miles. Please see warranty terms and conditions (www.renault.co.uk/warranty) for further details. Servicing offer covers cars for 4 years or 48,000 miles and vans for 4 years or 80,000 miles, whichever comes first. Services must be carried out in line with the manufacturer's minimum maintenance programme requirements and servicing intervals, and can only be carried out at a Renault Approved UK outlet. Renault Assistance Roadside Cover provided from month 0 to 36 includes assistance at the roadside and home, national recovery, onward travel and European cover. Cover from month 37 to 48 includes roadside and Homestart (including a local tow) at an authorised Renault dealer). Visit www.renault.co.uk/4plus. Rental quoted is for Renault Lease. If you choose Renault Lease you will not own the car. When you have paid the final rental at the end of the contract you can keep using the car and pay an annual rental equivalent to one monthly rental. Typical example: Clio Dynamique TomTom 1.2, 16V, advance rental £2,166 (inc. VAT), followed by 35 monthly rentals of £149.85 (inc. VAT) final rental £73.15 (inc. VAT). A finance facility fee of £149 will be payable with the advance rental. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands to apply). Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 140, Watford WD17 1FJ. Not available in conjunction with any other schemes or finance offers; see participating dealer for details. Offers are available to retail and business customers (but exclude fleet customers with own terms), and are valid on new vehicles, at point of new vehicle registration, when ordered from 1st June 2012 until 31st December 2012. Visit www.renault.co.uk/4plus

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Model shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in non-metallic Milano Red at £11,605 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (excluding Jazz Si) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example show based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.

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Customer Deposit	£185.00	Total Amount Payable	£13,008.77
Deposit including £500 Honda contribution	£685.00	Interest Rate per Annum	4.10%
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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai Veloster 1.6 GDI: Urban 34.9 (8.1), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3), Combined 43.5 (6.5), CO₂ Emissions 148 g/km.

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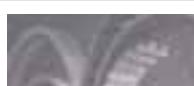
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Commercial Vehicles

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DEMAND for new vans has been on a roller-coaster ride lately.

These humble vehicles might be less visible and carry less than HGVs, but they oil the wheels of the economy by supplying local deliveries, servicing important sectors like construction and mobilising tradesmen.

Hardly surprising, then, that when the recession hit UK PLC, this vehicle sector drove off a cliff, plummeting 60 per cent in 2009 against 2008. But there were grounds for optimism when we turned the spotlight on this vehicle sector in January this year; registrations for new vans in 2011 had bounced back to almost 17 per cent up against the previous year.

Could it be that vans were signalling a turnaround for the UK? Sadly not, as the sector has reflected this year's faltering economy, including the double-dip phase we had all dreaded.

But signs of another market rally are here, with new van registrations down just 2.6 per cent over the past 12 months, while the new '62 registration plate month of September showed a 1.1 improvement against the same month in 2011, with major growth for pick-ups (+17.2 per cent) and vans in the up-to-two-tonne pay-load category (+8.8 per cent).

It was enough for a cautious note from the motor industry mouthpiece, the SMMT, chief executive Paul Everitt saying: "The September-plate change provided enough of a boost to stabi-



ON THE MOVE:
The Relay is Citroën's versatile flagship load-lugger, far left. It is popular for low running costs, while Mercedes has driven down operating costs through models like the Sprinter

Vans on the roller-coaster

lise van demand in a challenging economic environment."

Anecdotal evidence suggests a recovery is long overdue anyway, with signs of pent-up demand even before this year's renewed crisis of confidence.

Despite the growing durability and comfort levels of modern vans, operators large and small have been pushing their vehicle replacement programmes far beyond normal limits in the face of the economic downturn, only to find that

ageing vehicles start to look tatty – with public-image consequences – and incur more unprofitable downtime for maintenance.

Van powertrain technology is beginning to echo that of the car sector, so there are real commercial and public-relations benefits, too, from running a leaner and meaner fleet with better fuel consumption and lower emissions.

For Kent firms operating into London, there is also an opportunity to save on the capital's congestion charge by buying small eco vans

with CO₂ emissions that are below 100g/km.

Smaller operators are also playing a part in the recovering because they are being forced to buy new vehicles due to a scarcity of decent used stock, caused by the big boys hanging on to their fleets for longer and running up galactic mileages that make them less desirable secondhand.

Indeed, various industry sources suggest the van market faces a 'black hole' in supply in the years ahead due to new van registrations tumbling during the recession.

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Make way for White Van Ma'am



HIGH ROLLERS: Three leading market contenders: Citroën's high-cube big-selling Berlingo; Peugeot's multiple-award-winning compact/city van the Bipper; and Vauxhall's mid-size panel van the Vivaro

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHITE Van Man has a mate – White Van Ma'am.

According to a new survey, our perception of the person behind the wheel of the white van speeding by in the outside lane of the motorway needs to change.

That person is no longer someone with discarded drinks bottles and a copy of The Sun – open at page three – stuffed behind the wind-

screen and carrying a bull terrier as his navigator but an altogether more discerning individual – and quite possibly a woman.

Astonishingly, the survey from AXA Business Insurance also showed that he or she is likely to be an opera-lover (43 per cent) and more than 60 per cent had not been booked for a traffic offence in the past 10 years despite more than half spending at least 10 hours a week behind the wheel.

AXA Business Insurance managing director

Darrell Sansom said: "Commercial-van-drivers have been given a pretty bad reputation over the past decade, but the stereotypes around them couldn't be further from the reality."

"What we're finding is that as more and more women are driving vans, coupled with a higher degree of professionalism among the van-driving community, the stereotypical perception of a 'white van man' is becoming a thing of the past."

It seemed clear from the poll that most van-drivers objected to the white-van-man stereo-

type – well under half (39 per cent) reckoned it was accurate, but only 8 per cent owned up to being that man.

In any case, a third of the drivers surveyed were women, which might or might not explain why cooking and gardening were high on the list of hobbies, although it seems there are some pastimes that go with the job – 82 per cent of those interviewed regularly went to a football match or watched one live on TV... hopefully not while driving.

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Innovation drives sector forwards

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FOR years vans were seen as indistinct and anonymous boxes, but the sector has been revolutionised by new designs, technology, trends and roles.

And operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Many of the latter benefits have come about because of crossover designs from cars, bringing creature comforts like air-con and a decent sound system, plus top-notch safety.

Load capacities have also widened, from as little as three cubic metres for a car-derived courier van or company runabout, up to a 17-cubic metre delivery van, while pick-ups and small side-loading/tipper bodies have become popular in construction and farming.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vans come with at least one sliding door as standard to aid loading – many buyers take the option of a second ‘slider’. There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate as well.

Petrol-driven vans have all but been displaced by the better economy, range and low-down pulling power of four- and five-cylinder diesels, which also offer extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts.



BIG DEAL: Vauxhall has just launched the capacious new Combi to cope with high-bulk deliveries



LIFT-OFF: Toyota's Dyna appeals to those needing dropside/tipping capability on a more compact chassis.



FREE UP: Economy of vans like the Mercedes-Benz Vito has underpinned the e-commerce revolution

Fuel-saving and efficient-cruising six-speed manual gearboxes are also the norm, although urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions. These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for the stop-start traffic conditions of the town and city and can be as economical as a manual.

The latter is also particularly suited to one of the new roles for vans: servicing the booming e-commerce/internet-based businesses.

These often require small cargo volumes but lots of stops and even greater choice of van and loading flexibility.

Whether it is a book or large item of office equipment, private and commercial customers often expect the goods to be there within 24 hours.

The size of households is also decreasing, while the number of single-occupant households is increasing.

This has an effect on day-to-day requirements – people shop in smaller quantities and need smaller packs. By 2015, the daily volume of parcels is expected to have doubled to about 14 million across the UK and Europe compared with 1996.

The downside is increasing fuel prices and emissions, plus access restrictions to cities and towns, so many van operators are already upgrading to greener vehicles that will also save on operating costs and boost their image and PR.

A Mitsubishi L200 pickup truck is shown driving through a city street. The background features a modern skyscraper under construction with exposed steel beams and cranes. The truck is red and is shown from a front three-quarter angle. The overall atmosphere is industrial and rugged.

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Step forward 'Pick-up Truck Man'

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

YOU'VE heard of 'White Van Man', but is there now another road-going species – 'Pick-up Truck Man'?

Pick-ups – also known as 'utes' (utility trucks) and 'bakkies' in other parts of the world – have rocketed in number in the UK lately, both as commercial and leisure vehicles.

Sales are also illuminating an otherwise gloomy small-commercial-vehicles market, with a hefty 17 per cent leap during the new '62 registration month of September against the same month in 2011.

The unanswered question, though, is whether this popularity is due to tax anomalies that make the pick-up attractive to private users or whether commercial operators see them as relatively cheap yet spacious recession busters, available with two- or four-door cabs and, in the case of 4x4 models, able to go most places on a farm or construction site.

Could it be also that traditional off-roaders lack the carrying capacity and have become too gentrified and expensive? Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

There is certainly an air of Americana about contenders like the new Isuzu D-Max, Mitsubishi L200 – the model that caused the UK pick-up market to take off – and the legendary Toyota Hilux, the vehicle that Top Gear failed to kill off with fire, water and violence.

And there is no need to rough it, either; deal-

ers find most buyers want 'up-spec' double-cab versions that can take the family at weekends, complete with camping gear, bikes and so on, all safe from the weather beneath a removable hardtop cover for the rear loading bay.

Isuzu, for instance, has just launched a £900 'Vision' upgrade for audio, navigation and communications on the D-Max – the kind of pack usually found on executive saloons.

However, not every pick-up-buyer wants all the bells and whistles, which is why Fiat launched a cost-effective version of its award-winning Doblo Cargo van. The Doblo Work Up is a 'drop-side' vehicle with compact external dimensions for easy use in urban areas, though Fiat says it appeals to the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city-parks-services sectors, too.

But this isn't really the vehicle for would-be Marlboro Man private buyers and we asked Sittingbourne accountant Ray Backler, of small-business specialist Capsa Accounting, about the tax appeal of buying a 'rough-tough' pick-up.

"Company car tax is onerous, but the tax regime for vans recognises most people need these for business, so the burden is more modest," he said.

"Many in business do not realise pick-up trucks, including the family-friendly double-cab variety, are classified as vans for tax purposes rather than cars. The van is taxed based on a flat-rate charge of £3,000, and if any fuel is provided this is subject to a further flat-rate charge of £500, making £3,500 in total that is taxable."

"Of this, a standard-rate taxpayer will then only actually pay £700 in tax – a huge saving compared with virtually any company car."



BEGINNINGS: The Mitsubishi's high-spec L200 customised version kick-started UK pick-up demand



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